

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

The Holiday Season:

Always a Joy, Always a Challenge

Contrary to what the media and the department stores might want you to believe, the Holiday season traditionally begins with Thanksgiving Day. That seems very appropriate to me – beginning our holy season with gratitude and hopefully holding on to a grateful heart through the weeks leading up to and immediately following Christmas. Many people regard Thanksgiving as the best of times because it doesn't involve the hectic atmosphere surrounding Christmas. A day of gathering with family, feasting and relaxing is a welcome hiatus in our normal busy schedules, and if we can be thoughtful and recollected about the ways God has gifted us...even better. We all dread the burdensome, often unrealistic expectations the coming holiday season places upon us. Hearing people talk about holiday crunch time makes it seem as if we are required and even doomed to participate once again in the sheer pagan rites of consumerism, with all its obligations and compulsions: the cards, the gifts, the shopping, the food, the planning are just the tip of the Yule iceberg. There is some deeply imbedded starter pistol that goes off in our brains and suddenly and mindlessly, we are engulfed in the annual "Tinsel Town Dash." It doesn't have to be that way. You know deep down it doesn't have to be that way. And the fact is - it really doesn't have to be that way. But to make the Holiday season truly festive and spiritual and life-giving and joyful will involve going against the grain, moving against the fanatic flow, which is always hard work. Perhaps the best way to begin our holiday with the right attitude is to prepare and plan to celebrate the Season of Advent along with the mind of the Church. [More on Advent next week]

**Welcome Mr. Thomas Whittingham
For Seminary Appeal**

Thomas, AKA "Big Tom," will be with us at the Masses today to make an appeal after communion for the annual collection in support of our Diocesan Seminary, St. Charles Borromeo. St. Charles, which recently celebrated its 175th anniversary, 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. Tom will also be available to speak with you after Mass about his own formational and vocational journey. Tom is a member of our parish who is now in his third year at St. Charles in the class of 1st Theology.

Looking Ahead: Important Dates

- Monday, December 1
Parish Penance Service will be held in Church at 7 PM.
- Wednesday, 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.
- On the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21, and Sunday, Dec. 28 [Holy Family], and Sunday, Jan. 4 [Epiphany], there will be NO 10 PM MASS.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, November 15

9:00AM Mass *Pavel Zielinski*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Eleanor DePalma*

Sunday, November 16 **33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:00AM Mass *The Candeloro & Zagrosky Families*
11:30AM Mass *Frank Flannery*
5:00PM Mass *Antek Zielinski*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students of our area Universities*

Monday, November 17

7:30AM Mass *Intentions of Mary Nguyen*
12:05PM Mass *Pasquale H. Villa*

Tuesday, November 18

12:05PM Mass *Petrunella Zielinska*

Wednesday, November 19

1:00PM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Thursday, November 20

7:00PM Mass *Drexel Newman Community Faithful Departed*

Friday, November 21

7:30AM Mass *Intentions of Seth Stone*
12:05PM Mass *Pelania Zielinska*

Saturday, November 22

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Josephine Nguyen*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Joseph Zielinski*

**Benefit – TONIGHT – for UCHC
University City Hospitality Coalition**

Please come help support the University City Hospitality Coalition (UCHC) as they launch their annual Fall Fundraising Dinner. As many of you know, St. Agatha-St. James and the Penn Newman Center are host locations for UCHC's free hot meals for the homeless. Congregants of this Church have been invaluable to the success of UCHC, and we hope that you can continue to support the organization by attending this event.

When: Sunday, November 16 - from 6 PM to 8 PM

Where: Houston Hall, Hall of Flags

Why: UCHC is a non-profit organization that provides direct support services, such as daily hot meals and medical, legal, and dental clinics, to many of our city's poor and homeless. The fundraising event will account for one-third to one-half of UCHC's annual budget. Enjoy food from top restaurants (including Stephen Starr's Pod), watch performances by *Counterparts* and *Without a Net*, and bid on great auction items such as Philadelphia Flyers tickets and cashmere. Purchase tickets at www.phillysfinest.org - students are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door; adults are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. If you cannot attend the event but would like to make a donation, you can do so on the website. Thanks for your support!

VOCATION HOUR

Join Fr. Chris Rogers and special guests for a live radio talk-show on WISP 1570 AM. The program is VOCATION HOUR which features exciting stories from priests, seminarians and families. Listen and learn from the witness of those serving our local church and those responding to the call. The program airs 4:00-5:00 PM the first Friday of each month. You can call the station to speak to Fr. Rogers at 215-345-1570 or email your questions to: 1570AM@holyspirit.org. You can listen on the internet: www.holyspiritradio.org. For more information and to register for all discernment programs, contact Fr. Chris Rogers, Vocation Director for Diocesan Priesthood (610-667-5778) or email fcrogers@adphila.org. Visit our web page www.heedthecall.org.