



## Exaltation of the Holy Cross

News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

### Heritage of Faith - Vision Of Hope

#### The Archdiocesan Development Initiative

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has launched the first phase of a development program, called Heritage of Faith - Vision of Hope that will proceed over the next several years. All Institutions, parishes, and persons of the Archdiocese are invited and encouraged to respond to this challenge of stewardship. This initiative will provide needed funds for the diocese as a whole and for each parish that engages the process. A percentage of the total amount collected by each parish will be returned to the parish for its own capital improvement needs. That is good news for us here at St. AJ since we still have a number of outstanding capital projects and will benefit directly from sharing in a percentage of the money donated to this Archdiocesan wide fund-raising initiative.

#### Saint AJ's Responsibility

After a comprehensive campaign feasibility and planning study, the Clergy Campaign Design Committee and the Priests' Advisory Committee have crafted the framework for this capital and endowment initiative. At this stage, the financial goals for each parish in the diocese have been established: **The Campaign goal for St. Agatha - St. James Parish has been set at \$155,000.** (If you are interested in the goal formula used: it is 125% of the parish offertory collections for the year, rounded off to the nearest \$5,000.)

#### The Challenge

Each parish in the diocese will inevitably see their goal as a burden, but hopefully as a challenge too and even a grace. The burden part is easy to appreciate. Here at St. AJ we continue to find ourselves in the red because the fiscal year's expenses are larger than revenue. But responding to the call of help on a larger level than the local parish is what we Catholics do well. Our parents and grandparents built the parishes and institutions that we enjoy today. Taking responsibility for the whole church is what makes us family. To the degree we reach our goal, we also share in the proceeds locally because a certain percentage of these campaign funds will remain in the parish and be used appropriately.

#### The Method (Response)

I have decided after much consultation, that the best way to invite a broad based participation in this program is to designate that the second collection at Sunday Masses will be earmarked as our parish's contribution to the Heritage of Faith - Vision Of Hope initiative. Over the next 12 months, we will take the proceeds of any second collection that is not already dedicated for a particular purpose, and consider it as a donation for this purpose. In choosing to do that, I realize that the parish will no longer benefit directly from this revenue source, but this parish sacrifice would be an example to everyone in the parish of the kind of sacrifice we need for this program to be successful across the archdiocese.

**Reminder - Our Church Building is Open Wednesdays from 12:30-2pm for visits, private prayer and for tours. Take a tour with Maria McKeon, our tour guide, or use our self-guiding tour brochure if you wish.**

*Do not forget the works of the Lord!*

#### This Week at St. AJ

##### Saturday, September 13

4:00PM Confessions  
5:30PM Vigil Mass *People of St. AJ*

##### Sunday, September 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross

10:00AM Mass *Rose & Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*  
11:30AM Mass *In thanksgiving for Blessings*  
5:00PM Mass *Jessica Jones-Jacobs*  
10:00PM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

##### Monday, September 15

7:30AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

##### Wednesday, September 17

7:00PM *Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – in the Rectory*

##### Thursday, September 18

7:30AM Mass *Joseph Nguyen*  
12:05PM Mass *Marguerite Hall*

##### Saturday, September 20

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

#### Daily Mass Reminder

Weekday Masses at 7:30am, 12:05pm Monday – Friday and Saturday at 9:00am are celebrated in St. Bede Chapel of Penn Newman Center. No weekday 1:00pm Masses this week in the St. Katharine Drexel Chapel of Drexel Newman Center.

**RCIA:** More people than you realize may actually be thinking about becoming Catholic. Among those might be your friends, classmates and colleagues who are currently unchurched or disassociated with their former religious denominations and who may be wondering about the possibility of becoming Catholic. The Church is issuing to people who are yearning to find Jesus an invitation to “Come and See” what it would be like to learn more about the Catholic Faith and perhaps convert. Every year in September we begin a new RCIA journey that will lead candidates to Easter and full incorporation with us at the Lord's Eucharistic Table. Please let people know they can register for the RCIA program at [saintsajrcia@hotmail.com](mailto:saintsajrcia@hotmail.com).

#### **Sign up for On-Line Giving with ParishPay:**

**STEP 1** – Go to ParishPay website directly:

[www.parishpay.com](http://www.parishpay.com)

**OR** – Go to St. Agatha-St. James Website:

[www.saintsaj.org](http://www.saintsaj.org) and click on link: **ParishPay**

**STEP 2** – Select the third option: **Zip Code**

Type in St. AJ's Zip Code: **19104**

**Step 3** – On St. Agatha-St. James Donor Page:

- **Make your Contribution Choices**
- **Create Your Account**

#### **Students: September is “Confession Month”**

Begin a new academic year by availing yourself of the purifying, healing power of Jesus Christ; through His mercy have your sins forgiven! Every Saturday 4 - 5 pm in Church.

#### **Collections for Sunday 8/10/08**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1229.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 534.00 (Penn Newman Center AC)

#### **Collections for Sunday 8/17/08**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$ 963.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 455.00 (Drexel & Penn Newman Centers)