

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Stewardship - The Heart of a Disciple of Jesus

Believers, atheists and agnostics all share two fundamental basic beliefs:

1. That we will never get out of this world alive; and
2. You cannot take it with you.

But when it comes to stewardship – there is radical disagreement among atheists, agnostics and lukewarm believers around the issue of stewardship. Only a true disciple can comprehend stewardship which begins with the radical acceptance that God owns everything. God is the source of all things. God graciously entrusts His gifts and blessings, both temporal and spiritual, to us to use on our human journey. The response of the true believer to this awareness is:

Gratitude – First and foremost. Then, Accountability. While God gives us gifts and blessings for our own growth and development, He also asks us to employ them for His Kingdom so that through you, He may touch others with His goodness and love. Stewardship involves great responsibility to use the master's property wisely and justly, to their full potential and to return them with increase - ten, twenty, and a hundredfold.

The US Catholic Bishops in their 1992 pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, presented an eloquent description of a Christian steward as

“one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.”

The Archdiocesan Development Initiative

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has launched the first phase of a development program, **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. **The Campaign's established goal for St. Agatha - St. James Parish has been set at \$155,000.** We feel the best method of responding to this challenge is to designate the second collection at Sunday Masses for this purpose. Over the next 12 months, the total proceeds of the any second collection that is not already dedicated for a particular purpose will be earmarked as our parish's contribution.

The **Centering Prayer Group** meets in the Rectory prayer-room twice each month at 4:15pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass for the first and third Sundays of the month. For more information, call Tom Connolly at 484-995-4046 or e-mail at tconnoll@comcast.net.

Reminder - Our Church Building is Open Wednesdays from 12:30-2pm. Stop in for visits, private prayer or tours. Call the Rectory for more information.

Remember Your mercies, O Lord.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, September 27

11:00AM Baptism *Matthew Furda (Fr. Zlock)*
1:00PM Wedding *Crane/Doyle (Fr. Lyons/Fr. Marinucci)*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Sunday, September 28 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

10:00AM Mass *Rose, Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*
11:30AM Mass *Special Intention for AER*
5:00PM Mass *Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ*
10:00PM Mass *Volunteers and Ministers of St. AJ*

Monday, September 29

7:30AM Mass *For the Nguyen Family*
12:05PM Mass *Michael Monsoor*

Tuesday, September 30

12:05PM Mass *Hector Camargo*

Wednesday, October 1

7:30AM Mass *Minh-tu Nguyen*

Thursday, October 2

7:30AM Mass *The Nguyen Family*

Friday, October 3

7:30AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
12:05PM Mass *Irene Alberta*
1:00PM Mass *Members of the St. AJ Memorial Society*
5:30PM Wedding Rehearsal *Kochka/Dougherty (Fr. Morabito)*

Saturday, October 4

9:00AM Mass *Dionesio J. Po*
2:30PM Wedding *Kochka/Dougherty (Fr. Morabito)*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *John W. Bower*

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. Weekday Masses at 1:00pm are celebrated in St. Katharine Drexel Chapel of Drexel Newman Center.

RCIA: Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00pm in the Penn Newman Center. Come and See. And participate in the second session of the Period of Inquiry. If you know someone who might want to be part of this year's new RCIA journey, please let him/her know that he/she can register for the RCIA program at saintsajrcia@hotmail.com.

St. AJ Ministry Training Sessions:

Lectors: Thursday, October 9 at 7 pm in Church. This training session for Lectors will be offered a second time on Tuesday, October 14 at 7 pm in Church. Those who signed up to become Lectors should come to one of these sessions.

Eucharistic Ministers: Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30 pm in Church. This training session will be offered a second time on Monday, October 13 at 7:30 pm in Church. Those who signed up to become Eucharistic Ministers should come to one of these sessions. Thank you.

Sign up for On-Line Giving with ParishPay

STEP 1 – Go to ParishPay website directly:

www.parishpay.com

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**

Collections for Sunday 8/31/08

1st Collection: \$3030.00

2nd Collection: \$ 614.00 (Church Maintenance)