

The First Sunday of Advent



**So, too, you also must be prepared, for
at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.**

Gospel of St. Matthew 24:44

Words to Ponder

As we prepare for the coming of the Word made flesh, here are some thoughtful and thought-provoking words that we might ponder during Advent:

a. *The chief reason for all the misunderstanding of Christ's teaching is that it is considered to be a teaching we can accept without changing our lives.* Leo Tolstoy

b. *Any occurrence that moves us out of taking life for granted is a gift.* Robert J. Wicks

c. *We ask too little of Life. We dream too small. We stand at open gateways into the divine, but forever hesitate, satisfied with the view through cracks in the wall.* John Kirvan

d. *If I were to let my life be taken over by what is urgent, I would never get around to what is essential.* Henri Nouwen

e. *A quiet hour is worth more to you than anything you can do with it.* Sarah Orne Jewett

The Church offers the special anticipatory season of Advent to sharpen and heighten our desires and dreams and properly prepare for the Word made flesh, so that we may focus clearly on what Christmas really means.

Parish Advent Service

Advent is a time of preparation – spiritual preparation. The unique grace of the Advent Season is the grace of new beginnings, of starting over, of self-emptying, in order to prepare a place inside ourselves for the coming of Christ. One of the best ways to enter into Advent Grace is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As part of our Advent commitment to newness, we will celebrate our traditional ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE on **Monday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in The Center**. Please arrange your schedule so you can participate in this experience. Everyone is welcome! Please plan to attend to enhance your Advent Season and to prepare for the Christmas Season in the right spirit.

Day of Sanctification for Priests

Monday, November 29, is the Day of Sanctification for Priests. This day is celebrated as a yearly gathering of all the priests of Philadelphia who come together at St. Charles Seminary with Philadelphia's Archbishop, Justin Cardinal Rigali, in response to the Holy Father's call for priests to grow in holiness. The day begins at 2 pm and ends with dinner at the Seminary. There is a Holy Hour and time for reflection and confession. Please keep all priests in your prayers, especially as they come together this Monday.

Christmas Concert to Benefit Generation Life

Sunday, December 12, there will be a Christmas concert starting at 11:30 am at the World Café Live, 3025 Walnut Street, Philadelphia – not far from SS AJ. Net proceeds will benefit Generation Life. The featured performer will be Christian musician Bebo Norman whose Christmas music seeks to promote a Christ centered Christmas. Ticket information is available at www.BeboNorman.com for general admission tickets.

This Week at St. AJ



Saturday, November 27

9:00AM Mass *In Memory of Joe and Albert*
2:30PM Wedding Zollo / Wessier
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Blessings on the SS AJ Community*

First Sunday of Advent – November 28

Catholic Forum will meet today after 10:00 AM Mass in The Center.

10:00AM Mass *Rose & Joseph Candeloro and Maryann DeMarco*
11:30AM Mass
5:00PM Mass *Intentions of SS AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*
Baptism during Mass - *Liam Charles Pierre Bailey*

5:00PM Mass in Korean *Celebrated by Fr. Jaehwa in The Center*

10:00PM Mass *Students, Faculties & Staffs of Area Universities*

Monday, November 29

7:30AM & 12:05PM Mass Monday – Friday in St. Bede Chapel
1:00PM Mass Celebrated at Drexel Chapel Monday – Thursday

Tuesday, November 30

12:05PM Mass *In Memory of Allison and John*

Thursday, December 2

12:06PM Mass *In Memory of Juan Chico*

Friday, December 3

12:05 PM *Members of SS AJ Perpetual Memorial Society*
No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel Chapel on Fridays

Saturday, December 4

9:00AM Mass *In Memory of Charles and Robert*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *In Memory of Millie Cole*

Looking Ahead: Important Dates

- Monday, December 6

Parish Penance Service will be held in The Center at **7:00 pm**. Plan to attend and become more alert to God this Advent.

- Wednesday, Dec. 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation. No Vigil Mass. Mass schedule:

In The Center at 7:30 am, 12:05 pm, and 5:30 pm on **Dec. 8**

At Drexel Newman Center at 1:00 pm on **Dec. 8**

- Friday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass in Church at **8:00 pm**

- Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, in Church at **10:00 am**

- Feast of the Holy Family- No Vigil Mass and no 10:00pm Mass

- Epiphany of The Lord – No Vigil Mass and no 10:00 pm Mass

- Baptism of The Lord – No Vigil Mass and no 10:00 pm Mass

Parishioners will be receiving the Christmas folder with the complete schedule. The folders also will be available in The Center.

Parking Available for Weekend Masses

Parking is available for our Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses. Park in the Rectory parking lot (adjacent to the Rectory), the little parking lot off 38th St. near Sansom St., or the big parking lot behind The Center – enter from the 3700 block of Sansom St.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. Psalm 122

Saturday Confessions, 5:30 pm Vigil Mass and Sunday Masses - except Mass in Korean - are in SS AJ Church.

Newman Notes

Penn Newman Center 3720 Chestnut Street
www.newman.upenn.edu

Mr. Jeff Klein, Assistant Director, Penn Newman

Drexel Newman Ministry 30 South 33rd Street
www.drexelnewman.org

Daily Mass

Penn Newman Center 7:30 am, 12:05pm Mon-Fri
St. Bede Chapel – Upper Level

Drexel Chapel 1:00 pm Mass Monday-Thursday
St. Katharine Drexel Chapel, 2nd Floor

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Connections” Small-Groups Program: Seminars

St. Agatha-James Parish is starting a small-groups program! This is an opportunity to meet weekly for prayer, socialization and discussion. Groups will likely form around specific populations (e.g., undergrads, grad students, professionals) but participation is open to all. Further information will be forthcoming. If you are interested, please e-mail Jeff Klein at jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu.

Coat Drive

Baby, it's cold outside... The Penn Newman Center is holding a coat drive to benefit students at Lea Elementary School. Please donate new or gently used coats for children grades K-8 **by January 14**. All donations can be brought to the Newman Center at 3720 Chestnut Street. For more information or questions, contact Louisa Jacquinto at ljacquinto@gmail.com.

Tutor at the IHM Center for Literacy!

Interested in helping recent immigrants learn English? If so, then volunteering at the IHM Center for Literacy (just a few blocks from campus) may be perfect for you. Sister Fran Small, IHM, is looking for some friends who are willing to help out in the "language lab." Your primary job will be to help the learners progress in Rosetta Stone, which the teachers use to supplement the classroom work. If you are interested in learning more – no obligation – feel free to contact Eric Banecker at ejb@sas.upenn.edu.

Circle of St. Bede

The Circle of St. Bede invites interested faculty and professionals to join us on **Tuesdays 8:10-8:50 am** in the upper level of Penn Newman. If interested, please contact Dr. Peter Dodson: dodsonp@mail.vet.upenn.edu.

Morning Scripture Study

We gather at **8:00 am on Wednesdays** in the upper level of Penn Newman. New members are warmly welcomed. Contact Charlotte Ethier at ethiercc@aol.com.



Holy Hour

All are invited to join us for our weekly Holy Hour on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm** (changed from 8:00) at Penn Newman – Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration and Benediction. Also, confessions will be heard during this time.

Stand Up for Life

Every **2nd Saturday of the month at 9:00 am** a pro-life group will celebrate Mass at the Penn Newman Center. Following Mass, they will pray the Rosary in procession to Penn Family Care at 39th and Chestnut.

National Catholic Student Coalition: Leadership Conference

Are you interested in meeting other Catholic collegians? Do you want to learn what it takes to be a faith-filled leader on campus? If so, join Catholic college students from across the country for an annual leadership conference hosted by the National Catholic Student Coalition (NCSC). The NCSC, as the representative voice of Catholic collegians, provides students with the necessary resources, network, and partners in order to aid in the formation of faith-filled Catholics. For more information about the NCSC or the annual leadership conference, visit www.catholicstudent.org or contact Jeff Klein at jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu.

PENN NEWMAN: ALL STUDENTS

After-Mass Social

Come to the Penn Newman Center at **11:00 pm on Sunday, Dec. 5** for free food and fun at an After-Mass Social! Contact Matt Oliveras with any questions at oliveras@wharton.upenn.edu. All are welcome.

Dollar Dinner!

On Thursdays at 6:00 pm at Penn Newman, gather with us for an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner for just \$1! All Penn students are welcome and no reservation necessary!

Penn Newman: Spiritual Mentoring/Direction

Spiritual mentoring/direction is an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a professional minister to speak about your life. Several mentors are available to Penn undergraduate and graduate students. See www.newman.upenn.edu.

West Philly Recess Initiative

Penn Newman undergrads and grad students will be gathering for this program at local elementary schools. **2 hours per week (M-F)** on site around lunchtime. Promote a more pleasant lunchroom and environment conducive to interactive play and fitness through games and activities. Contact Natalie at west.philly.recess@gmail.com.

Support Group for Penn Students Coping with Illness or Death of a Loved One

Penn students facilitate a peer-led support group. For more info, see www.newman.upenn.edu (scroll down to the bottom of the page under "Ongoing Programs"). Though this is not a Penn Newman activity, we are happy to let students know of this opportunity.