

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

From Fr. Jim –

"The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us." With these words the Church announces the completion and fulfillment of our Advent preparation. The Christmas season of grace and rejoicing begins Sunday, December 25 and extends throughout the octave [eight days] until Sunday, January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, and continues to the following Sunday, the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. As we enter into the solemn celebration of this holy season of the birth of the Savior, the priests and all staff members at Saints Agatha and James and the Newman Ministries at Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of the Sciences extend to all of you and your loved ones, a happy and holy Christmas Season. Please know that your needs and intentions are remembered in our prayers and Masses during these Holy days.

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2011 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2012

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil Mass at 5:30PM

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

Sunday Masses at 9:30AM and 11:30AM

Sunday, January 1, 2012 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

No Vigil Mass on Saturday, December 31

Sunday Masses, January 1, 2012, at 9:30AM and 11:30AM
No Mass at 5:30PM or 9:00PM on Sunday, January 1

Sunday, January 8, 2012 Epiphany of The Lord

No Vigil Mass on Saturday, January 7

Sunday Masses, January 8, 2012, at 9:30AM and 11:30AM
No Mass at 5:30PM or 9:00PM on Sunday, January 8

Daily Masses During the Holiday Season

Monday, December 26 to Friday, December 30
Monday, January 2 to Friday, January 6

One Daily Mass at 12:05PM
St. Bede Chapel, Newman Center

Saturday Mass
8:30AM, St. Bede Chapel, Newman Center

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Confessions will resume on
January 14, 2012, from 4:00PM to 5:00PM

No Confessions on December 24, December 31,
and January 7

PARISH COUNCILS

Parish Pastoral Council: Fr. Jim McGuinn, Thomas Holloman, Natalie Seminole, Carole Tokarczyk

Parish Finance Council: Fr. Jim McGuinn, Eric Banecker Eileen Brennen, John Doyle, Ray Jones, Ed Nelling, Peter Scoles, Jessel Subero

This Week at Saints Agatha and James

Saturday, December 24

5:30PM Christmas Vigil Mass Parishioners and Benefactors

Sunday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

9:30AM Mass Faith Community of Saints Agatha and James
11:30AM Mass Friends and Volunteers



Monday, December 26

12:05PM Mass In Memory of Anthony Stephen Koppany

Tuesday, December 27

7:00PM Holy Hour St. Bede Chapel, Newman Center

Wednesday, December 28

12:05PM Mass In Memory of Ed Ruth

Friday, December 30

12:05PM Mass In Memory of William Jones

4:00PM Wedding Joseph Grady and Stephanie Schelkun

Saturday, December 31

8:30PM Mass In Memory of Maria Del Carmen Seara

Celebrants for the Weekend Masses, January 1

Sunday, January 1 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

9:30AM Sunday Christmas Mass Fr. George
11:30AM Sunday Christmas Mass Fr. Jim

PARISH MINISTRIES

ADULT MINISTRIES

Carole Tokarczyk, Acting Director of Adult Ministries
info@saintsaj.org

For matters pertaining to Catholic Forum, Circle of St. Bede, Connections, Legion of Mary, Outreach, Pre-Cana, RCIA, Scripture Study, Young Adults, please contact TBA.

Catholic Forum: Everyone is welcome to attend this gathering to share fellowship and reflect on the readings of each Sunday's Mass. We resume January 8 and will meet after the 9:30AM Mass near the Heritage Room in Church to walk to the Center.

Circle of St. Bede: We resume our meetings on Tuesday, January 17, in the Newman Center's lower level after 7:30AM Mass. We seek to promote the integration of faith with our academic lives and to foster a sense of Catholic community in the campus setting. **Topic for January 17:** "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Contact Dr. Peter Dodson at dodsonp@mail.vet.upenn.edu.

Pre-Cana: Friday, March 2, 7:00PM – 9PM, and Saturday, March 3, 9AM – 6:30PM (includes Vigil Mass). Donation to Sts. A & J is \$150. For more info, write to info@saintsaj.org or call 215-386-9732; leave your name and contact information.

Scripture Study: We resume meeting on Wednesday, January 11. New members are warmly welcomed at 8:00AM in the lower level of the Newman Center. We will continue discussing the Book of Job (Chapters 32-34). Contact Charlotte Ethier at ethiercc@aol.com for more information.

HOSPITAL MINISTRIES

The Church of Saints Agatha and James

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonyeni, Director of Hospital Ministries
OLC201080@yahoo.com

Rev. George L. Strausser, Director of Hospital Ministries
gl.s.aj@verizon.net

For matters pertaining to Hospital Ministries and Hospital Eucharistic Ministers, contact Fr. Benjamin or Fr. George.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Bruce Carlson, Director of Liturgical Ministries
bruce.carlson.jr@gmail.com

For matters pertaining to: Altar Servers, Art & Environment, Audio/Visual, Lectors, Music, Sextons, Ushers, contact Bruce Carlson at bruce.carlson.jr@gmail.com.

Liturgy Corner: I hope that all of you are as pleased as I am about the progress our parish has made in the implementation of the new translation of the *Roman Missal*. As you are probably aware, we've taken an incremental approach to making changes in the wording of both the spoken and sung parts of the Mass during this Advent season. This past week we added the last of the new congregational responses, enabling us to use the new pew cards in their entirety. My hope is that, in asking parishioners to focus on only one or two changes at a time, we've avoided some of the discomfort that can sometimes accompany those inevitable mistakes, when they occur. Hopefully we can continue to have a worship experience free from that anxiety as we continue to become more familiar with the texts. Over the past weeks Fr. Jim has spoken about our *Liturgical Ministries* here at Sts. Agatha and James. Along those lines, please take a moment to look at the excellent insert in this week's bulletin concerning the participation of the faithful at Mass. Or better yet, take one home. Peace to all!

OPERATIONAL MINISTRIES

Joseph Lamb, Director of Operational Ministries
josephlamb@comcast.net

For Business Ministries, Facilities Ministries, Office Ministries or Custodial Ministries, please contact Joe Lamb.

Eileen Brennen, Business Manager
eileen.brennen.mba@gmail.com

Carole Tokarczyk, Office Manager
info@saintsaj.org

Joseph Lamont, Custodian
N3vbc@hotmail.com

DREXEL NEWMAN MINISTRY

Michael Chovanes, Assistant Director, Drexel Newman
Drexelnewman@gmail.com

Merry Christmas! Father Jim and Mike would like to extend their good wishes for Christmas this year to the students at Drexel! Have a safe and happy Christmas!

Graduate Student Ministry: If you're a Drexel graduate student, and you are interested in participating in a ministry with you peers, please contact Assistant Director Mike Chovanes at DrexelNewman@gmail.com. This will be building from the ground up, so how exactly this grad student

ministry will take shape is still evolving. We will begin meetings after the start of the winter quarter.

Journey Conversations: If you're a Drexel Student, staff, or faculty and you're interested in interfaith relations, please contact Mike Chovanes at DrexelNewman@gmail.com to participate in Drexel University's Journey Conversations. This is a small-group oriented interfaith program with compassionate listening, deep questioning, and storytelling.

Cor Retreat: Penn Newman has invited Drexel Newman to Cor January 13th-15th. There will be time to build community, pray, and learn about the spirituality of John Henry Cardinal Newman on this retreat!

PENN NEWMAN MINISTRY

Jeff Klein, Assistant Director, Penn Newman
jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu

ALL PENN STUDENTS

Locks of Love: We will be hosting our third annual LOL event on Sunday, April 22. To sign up to donate 6 or more inches of your hair, please email locksoflove.newman@gmail.com with your name, telephone number, and email address.

Get Connected! To join one of Penn Newman's email listservs (one for undergrads; one for grad students), see www.newman.upenn.edu and click on REGISTER NOW!

Newman Dinner: On Thursdays at 6:00PM at Penn Newman, gather with us for our weekly dinner! A great meal for only \$3! The event also features Open Mic! All Penn students welcome and no reservation necessary! No more dinners until Jan. 12.

Spiritual Mentoring/Direction: 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.

PENN GRADUATE STUDENTS

Grad Student Service Opportunity: The University City Hospitality Coalition meal for the poor and homeless needs volunteers 5:30-7:00PM on Mondays at St. AJ's. For more information, Email Anna Smith at annasm@vet.upenn.edu!

PENN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Cor Retreat: All Penn sophomores, juniors or are welcome to join us, Jan. 13-15 (MLK Jr. Weekend)! It will consist of socialization, small group discussions, and ample time for prayer and reflection. Contact Jeff Klein to sign up or for more info! Cost: \$75.

U SCIENCES NEWMAN MINISTRY

TBA, Assistant Director, USciences Newman
uscience.newman@gmail.com

Merry Christmas! Father Jim and Mike would like to extend their good wishes for Christmas this year to the students at Usci! Have a safe and happy Christmas!

Cor Retreat: Penn Newman has invited Usci Newman to Cor January 13th-15th. Build community, pray, and learn about the spirituality of John Henry Cardinal Newman on this retreat.