



The Church's Holy Days

In the Church's Code of Canon Law, Canon 1247 states: "On Sunday and other Holy Days of Obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." Holy Days are important days in the Catholic Church that honor special events or special people. There was never a time in the history of the Church when there were no holy days. The earliest Christians observed the traditional holy days in the Jewish calendar that commemorated important events in Jewish salvation history. As Christianity grew, the Jewish holy days were replaced by special days that commemorated special events in the life of Jesus and eventually, in the history of the Church and in the lives of Mary, the Martyrs and Saints. Holy Days were often celebrated as festivals with special food, music, processions, and customs. Of course, it was not necessary to tell people or to obligate people to participate in the celebrations because such gatherings and celebrations were intrinsic to the fabric of their lives and their community and, sometimes, to their cultural identity. Such Holy Day celebrations offered the opportunity to renew and enrich the faith lives of the people as well as providing great festivity. It became customary in the Church, especially during the Middle Ages, for local bishops to establish local Holy Days and feast days that became associated with particular countries and religious shrines and pilgrimage sites. It was in 1911 that Pope Pius X established eight official Holy Days of Obligation to be observed by the Universal Church. Two more Holy Days of Obligation were added to the Church's calendar in the 1917 edition of the Code of Canon Law. The Universal Church continues to hold ten Holy Days of Obligation, but only the Vatican observes all ten. They are:

- Mary the Mother of God - January 1**
- The Epiphany - January 6**
- St. Joseph – March 19**
- The Ascension of the Lord - 40 days after Easter**
- Corpus Christi – Thursday after Trinity Sunday**
- Saints Peter and Paul - June 29**
- The Assumption of Mary – August 15**
- All Saints – November 1**
- The Immaculate Conception – December 8**
- The Nativity of Our Lord – December 25**

Mass Schedule Changes – Labor Day Weekend

St. AJ Mass Schedule changes will go into effect Labor Day Weekend; weekend Masses will then be in Church.

- Saturday Confessions at 4:00 pm** – resumes Sept. 4.
- 5:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass** – resumes September 4.
- 10 PM Sunday Mass** – resumes September 5.
- Monday, September 6** – 9:00 am Mass – The Center
- Tuesday, Sept. 7** - 7:30 am Mass resumes – The Center

All Summer Sunday Masses will be held in the St. Bede Chapel of the Penn Newman Center.

Newman Center Notes

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

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

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 12:05pm Penn Newman St. Bede Chapel – Upper Level

Drexel Newman has resumed celebrating the 1:00 pm Mass Monday through Thursday this Summer.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand Up for Life

Every second 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 the Women's Medical Society clinic at 38th and Lancaster.

PENN NEWMAN: ALL STUDENTS

Service Opportunity: Tutoring

Participate in a tutoring program for children from K-4th grades at Annunciation BVM Church in South Philly on **Mondays, 3:00-5:15 pm**. The children are primarily Mexican immigrants who are just learning English, and consequently placed below grade level in local schools. Contact Jeff Klein at jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu.

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.

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.

PENN NEWMAN: GRAD STUDENTS

Small Faith-Sharing Groups

We would like to start some faith-sharing/discussion groups of Penn grad students to begin meeting in Fall 2010. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Klein at jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu.

