

St. Augustine's Liturgy Committee News

The May meeting of the Liturgy Committee was held on May 5, 2006. Plans are being finalized for the May Liturgies and the June Liturgical Calendar is being set. We again ask everyone to think about special Masses or Services that you would like to see happen in our parish. Talk to Fr. Andy or the Liturgy Committee Chairperson, Wanda Knepper. The phone number for either one is the rectory, 233-3813.

MONTHLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Have you decided to come early on the First Saturday of each month from 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. for the Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass? This is entirely voluntary and no one/group will be especially assigned. We hope you are considering becoming one of the "Adorers". This would be a fine time to pray for your 'special intention'. We all have something special to pray for from time to time. We may have people from outside our parish participating and then staying for 4:00 p.m. Mass. Perhaps some of our parishioners would like to come a little early for some special prayers. If you enter church during those hours please be aware and perhaps a little more reverent.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

We hope those who attended the 10:30 Mass of Confirmation Celebration had the opportunity to congratulate those Confirmandi who were present. Thanks to Sr. "B" and Mrs. Baechle who were there, and to Mr. Dale Allen who took a group photo after Mass. Thanks also to Jean Weier who made the arrangements for the Donut and Juice Social under the tent after mass and to Dorothy Feder who helped. Perhaps we have started a new tradition.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL MASS ON MAY 28

We will be honoring our parish service men and women at the 8:30 a.m. mass on Sunday, May 28. There will be special music and songs. We will have color guards hosted by the Catholic War Veterans Butz-Jobe Post #370, and including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Korean War Veterans and the American Legion. At all Masses on this weekend there will cards and pencils on the tables at all doors of the church. On entering the church you may stop at the table and write your special service man or woman's name on the card and post it on the bulletin board standing near the altar before mass. This can include veterans as well as active personnel. We will remember them in our prayers during the week in thanksgiving for their service to us and our country and pray for their safety.

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

The Liturgy of the Word for Children will continue throughout the summer on the 4th Sunday of the month at the 10:30 a.m. Youth Mass. It is being well received by the children. Volunteers will invite those children in the age range of 4 years to 14 years to attend a special explanation of the readings of the day that will be geared especially to their level of understanding. The Children will attend mass with their families before the readings. Father will invite them to join the volunteers in a walk to the rectory basement for their "special liturgy readings and explanations", and the volunteers will escort them back into church to rejoin their families for Communion so they can receive Father's communion blessing as they do now. We hope parents will encourage their young ones to attend this special liturgy but it is not mandatory. Hopefully those who will be attending will be able to discuss with the rest of the family what they hear and understand on the way home from church on these Sundays. Our children are very important persons in our church and they need to be nurtured and instructed from early on about our faith. We also hope the parents will bring their children to the Youth Mass and encourage them to participate in some way. They can be Greeters, Ushers, Lectors, Singers, or carry up the gifts. It is refreshing to see the young people coming of age in the church.

St. Jude Candle Grotto

The practice of lighting candles before the Lord goes back to the Old Testament. God required the Israelites to maintain lamps burning before the Holy of Holies (Ex. 40). The lighted votive candles (often called vigil lights) in the St. Jude Grotto indicate that someone is praying about something particular, either for themselves or on behalf of someone else. They can also refer to a promise to pray for someone, as well as a wish or desire for a certain outcome on behalf of someone, such as recovery of health. Since the lit candles in our Candle Grotto can be seen by all those attending mass, they serve to remind everyone to add their prayers to those already being said for all those special intentions.

Do you know who St. Jude was? He was the son of Cleophas, who died a martyr, and Mary who stood at the foot of the cross and who anointed Christ's body after death. He was a nephew of Joseph and Mary therefore a blood relative of Jesus and reported to look a lot like him. He may have been a fisherman. He was an apostle. St. Jude preached in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia with St. Simon. He was a healer and exorcist. His patronage of lost or impossible causes, desperate situations, hospitals, and hospital workers is the reason for his statue being in our church and the Tuesday night prayers to St. Jude. He died in 1st century Persia by being beaten to death with a club. He is represented as a bearded man wearing a medallion with a profile of Jesus with a small flame over his head. Our statue of St. Jude was a gift to our parish in memory of Mr. Harvey H. Oelrich. Please feel free to light a candle and say a prayer to St. Jude for your special intention. During the month of June we hope to add to the decor of our Candle Grotto to make it a little more welcoming and meaningful.



Our choirs will take the summer off as usual and will not be singing during the months of June, July and August except for special occasions that may arise. If you have enjoyed hearing the singers and feel they add to your liturgical experience, please thank Mark Cowgill, our Choir Director, and both of our organists, Natie Climaco (Adult Choir) and Jean Weier (Youth Choir). Last but not least thank the choir members themselves for the Sundays they have participated and the other days they have come to practice.