



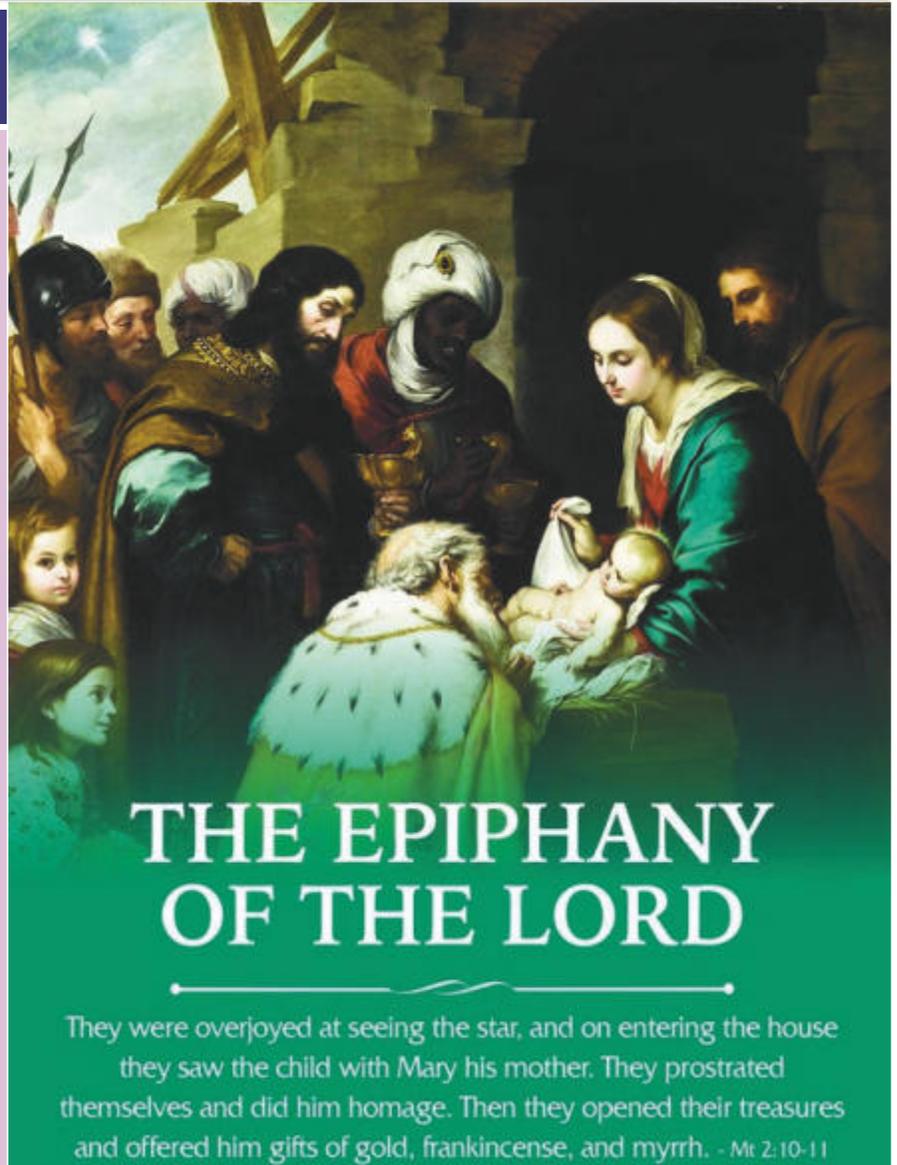
# SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

**PARISH CENTER**  
22412 Overlake  
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080  
Phone: 586-777-3670  
Fax: 586-774-5528  
Website: www.sjascscs.org  
E-mail: sjainfo@sjascscs.org

**SCHOOL**  
22415 Overlake  
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080  
Phone: 586-775-8370  
Fax: 586-447-3574  
Website: www.stjoan.net  
E-mail: info@stjoan.net

**FAITH AND FAMILY FORMATION OFFICE**  
22415 Overlake  
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080  
Phone: 586-772-1282  
Fax: 586-775-8374  
E-mail: repoffice@sjascscs.org

# Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

## ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

### Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670  
Fax: 586-774-5528

### School

Phone: 586-775-8370  
Fax: 586-447-3574

### Religious Education

Phone: 586-772-1282  
Fax: 586-775-8374

### Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin  
gmbugarin@sjascs.org

### Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone  
dciaffone@sjascs.org

### Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net

### Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson  
adawson@sjascs.org

### Principal

Kathy Kalich  
kkalich@stjoan.net

### Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass  
khass@sjascs.org

### Non-Resident Associate Pastors / Weekend Assistants:

Fr. Rich Bartoszek  
Fr. James Grau

### Assistant Principal

Mary Pat Brennan  
mbrennan@stjoan.net

### Exceptional Children

Mary Cal  
mcal@sjascs.org

### Music Minister

### Youth Group

Linda Lietaert  
llietaert@stjoan.net

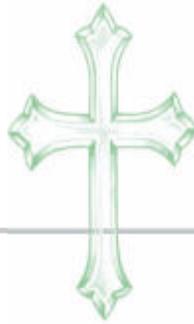
### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz  
tstrasz@sjascs.org

### Anthems Director

Eleonore Ellero-Groth  
eleonoraellero@gmail.com

Deacon Dom Pastore  
dpastore@sjascs.org



## PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is **CLOSED** to visitors for the foreseeable future. The foyer **ONLY** is open Monday -Thursday from 8:30am-5pm and Friday from 8:30-4pm. For mass intentions or any service we may be reached at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

For any urgent needs when we are not open, please call our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

**Baptisms:** Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form.

**Marriages:** Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

**Registration:** It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity.

## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

### Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

### Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm

7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

### Reconciliation

Saturday: 11:00 am in the Sister Carol Center adjacent to Church

### Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

### Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am mass outside by the Holy Trinity statue. (Bring your own lawn chair please)

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, at this time please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone to get further information.

Once the Parish Center is re-opened please feel free to stop by and register in person.

## SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWS LETTERS!

If you would like to keep up with what is going on in the parish or if you need to update your email address go to our website at stjoan.church.



**A Bugarin Family Update:** I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and prayers as my immediate and extended family work through, as

of today, 17 known cases of COVID. Because of early bulletin deadlines, I am writing this article on December 23, 2020, so some of this may be “old news.”

My parents are still in the hospital. Both tested positive for COVID, and my mom and one of my sisters (Jackie) have pneumonia on top of that. All are doing well and are being treated with different protocols based on their conditions. It certainly will be, as for all of us, a Christmas to remember!

Many people have been amazed by many cases broke out in our family, but then many may remember the article about the funeral of my brother-in-law’s brother, Steve Finn, who tragically took his life the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. We assume that most of the cases stemmed from the funeral. Yet, we were cautious about wearing masks and being around people. My parents and my sister Jackie and brother-in-law Lonnie purposely chose not to attend the funeral. They decided to watch it online, so they could avoid getting COVID. It was a hard decision, but we’ve been so careful with my parents that this was the right decision to make. The four of them came to my house the following day to help decorate my place for Christmas. We decided to limit the crowd to just my parents and Jackie and Lonnie to help mitigate their COVID exposure. By the following night, my sister and brother-in-law were in full COVID symptom mode. They both tested positive. Then my mom was next to show symptoms, followed by my dad. My mom then tested positive, but my dad was negative at first, but then tested positive by the end of the week. While I had symptoms for about 36 hours, I tested negative three times while in quarantine. My parents’ conditions deteriorated rapidly. They both were very sick and extremely weak. Making the decision to go to the hospital was easy just seeing how sick they were. If there is anything I’ve learned from this virus, it’s that you SHOULD NOT wait it out. If you start to show ANY signs or symptoms of COVID and you’re in an at-risk category, DO NOT WAIT to get medical attention. We still can’t figure out how my parents and Jackie and Lonnie got COVID when they were not at the funeral. They also

have been very careful about masks and not being around a lot of people. Most likely, it was from two separate “events” which then made me “super-exposed,” which was what caused me to go into quarantine for 14 days.

As my mom’s condition worsened, a decision was made to take her down to Grosse Pointe Beaumont, mostly because Fr. Rich could keep an eye on her, and my mom’s infectious disease doctor, Dr. Gilpin, is there. A few days later, my dad was on his way there too. As always, the experience at GP Beaumont was phenomenal. The staff could not have been any kinder. I’ve never had the experience until now of just dropping them off at the front door and waving goodbye. That was hard. I made sure they had our contact information on one sheet so they didn’t have to look our numbers up on their phones. My parents also keep a handy sheet with their medical history and medications. This sheet of paper helps make the registration process a breeze.

I’ve always known our front line and essential medical personnel as HEROES, but seeing those signs take on now a whole new meaning, having gone through this experience! AND, God bless Fr. Rich! All of us who have passed through the halls of Grosse Pointe Beaumont are ever so grateful for his ministry. He’s a super-hero ... a Hero’s Hero!

Hopefully, by the time you read this, my family will be on the mend, and we will finally have been able to celebrate Christmas together. Christmas Day itself was to be a Zoom Christmas.

While I have been super-careful and judicious about wearing my mask and washing my hands, I won’t be skirting any corners anymore. We may not like wearing masks and smelling Lysol (which seems to be the fragrance of the Parish Center), these precautions are saving lives. Please masked up. Most importantly, don’t let your guard down just because you’re around family or close friends. Take it from me, it’s not worth it!

**CHRISTMAS THANKS:** I wish to extend my appreciation and thanks to all who helped with the Christmas liturgies and environment this year. The Church and the Sr. Carol Center looked absolutely AWESOME! Please join me in thanking the Markielewicz Family (Pat, Sandy, Abby, and Zachery). They were also assisted by the Meldrum Family (Patti, Marty, Christopher, and Andrew) and by Logan Shaheen and Carine Gustin. The Memorial Christmas Tree project was led

by Maria and Larry Krzesowski, Debbie and Tim Bigham and Jeanne and Tom Van Egmond, Adele Grady and Mary Garofalo.

I’m grateful to Greg Ruvolo, Vern Dave, as well as Justin and Chris Wisnieski from RMW Productions for their extraordinarily hard work in getting the outside Christmas tree lights up on the trees and for putting together the outdoor and indoor Nativity sets.

I’m grateful to Dina Ciaffone, Rachel Gerard, Jackie Bugarin-Scheuer, and Patty Kesner for their hard work and efforts in handling all the details at the Parish Center.

I’m grateful to Kristine Hass, Eleonore Ellero-Groth, Andrew Meager, Stephanie Nofar-Kelly, Ted Devine, and Louise Veltri for their help with the music.

I’m grateful to Anne Melise and her adorable mother Ilona Higgins for all the work they do in tending to the plants and flowers in church year-round.

I’m grateful to all those who helped sponsor a family for Christmas or provided us with gift cards to help people in need.

I’m grateful to our God’s Door Keeper Ministers, who greeted people as they walked through our church doors.

I’m grateful to Kristine Hass for her hard work and dedication in creating and editing the Christmas edition of the bulletin.

I’m grateful to all those who handle our live-streaming details, especially the Hass family, Jim Jenkins, Ed Raybaud, Brian Wotta, and Jim and Gino Paluzzi. Hundreds of people watch our masses because of your dedication to this ministry.

My thanks also go to our lectors, the Leadership Team (Father Andrew; Rosemary Dygert; Barb and Kevin Hendrick; Kathy Kalich; and Kevin and Michelle Kaptur) and most especially to Fr. Andrew, Fr. Rich, Fr. Jim, Deacon Tom, and Deacon Dom. We are ever so grateful for their dedication and ministry. Our liturgies were prayerful, and it took a lot of people working together to make it all happen. It was another extraordinarily beautiful Christmas at SJA and one that we needed because it lifted our hearts and minds amid our COVID experience! THANK YOU!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org



**St. Joan of Arc**  
Online Giving

Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

Download the Online Giving app today at [OLGApp.com](http://OLGApp.com)

Give online at [stjoan.church](http://stjoan.church) or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID# **4719**

Google play  
Download on the App Store

Donations  
Payments



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

We continue to raise funds in support of needed capital improvements and big-ticket maintenance items in our Maintaining God's House campaign.  
[sjascs.org/gods-house](http://sjascs.org/gods-house)

**SPONSORSHIP APPEAL**

Helps cover costs of items and services we rely upon throughout the year. Donors see gifts at work and it sheds light some of the daily expenses we face in our active parish.  
[sjascs.org/sponsorship-appeal](http://sjascs.org/sponsorship-appeal)

### *More on Marriage* GRATEFUL FOR MY SPOUSE

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a weekend for married Christian couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Attend a Marriage Encounter weekend and learn the tools needed to keep your marriage strong.

The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter is on communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions

and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. What you get out of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will depend largely on where you are in your relationship on the Weekend you go. You will get whatever it is you need at that point in time. Every marriage deserves this kind of attention!

Virtual and in-person weekends are scheduled for 2021.

<https://encountermichigan.org>

### REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others – no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto:vac@aod.org).

In addition, the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at 844-324-3374 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or by email at [aginvestigations@michigan.gov](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

More information about the Archdiocese's efforts to address abuse may be found at [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org).

# GETTING FORMED: LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS

When was the last time you made a special effort to learn more about your Catholic faith? Do you remember a last time? Or did you graduate from your faith formation once you made your confirmation or received your diploma from a Catholic school? St. Joan of Arc's subscription to FORMED online is a great resource for learning, praying and growing more in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Life is busy. We live in a noisy world filled with distractions and diversions that easily take our minds and hearts off of God and on to the next item on our never-ending to-do list.

For the past few years, St. Joan of Arc's subscription to the online streaming service FORMED has given parishioners access to Catholic movies, programs, lectures and accompanying written resources to grow in faith. FORMED can be used on smart phones, tablets, computers and smart TVs with web browsing. The richness and depth of the FORMED library continues to expand.

Two programs for adults on reconciliation and Eucharist, *Forgiven* and *Presence*, beautifully accompany sacrament preparation materials the children in our parish use, and FORMED makes these rich programs available to all. The feedback from parents has been outstanding.

There are also children's favorites such as Basketball-playing *Brother Francis* and *Carlos the Caterpillar*, as well as the *Saints and Heroes* Collection.



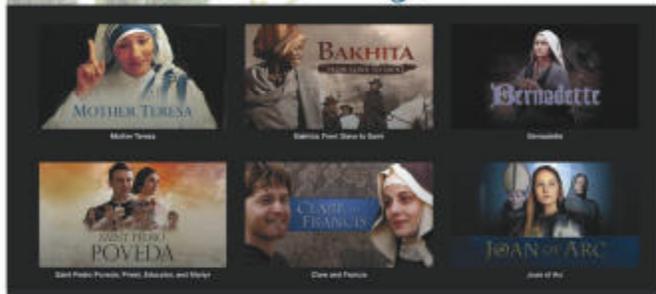
Sign up to get FORMED for free by visiting [formed.org](http://formed.org) and selecting St. Joan of Arc Parish.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETS ON FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS

Open to men of all ages, our men's fellowship group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month. The group meets for prayer, to study scripture and for ongoing fellowship. Beginning in January, the Men's Fellowship will dive into CS Lewis' satirical and profound book, *The Screwtape Letters* - a tale of temptation and the resistance of evil told through the correspondence of an experienced devil to his novice nephew. For more information, contact Pat Adamcik at 313-477-3697 or [pjadamcik@wowway.com](mailto:pjadamcik@wowway.com).



## It's Movie Night on FORMED



## Celebrating our Faith in the Domestic Church



### *What is Chalking the Door?*

*It is a way to celebrate and mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. The letters we mark have two meanings. They represent the initials of the Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, who came to visit Jesus in His first home – the manger in Bethlehem. They also represent the first letters of the words in the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and the 20 at the beginning and 21 at the end are for the year. The inscription is made as a request for Christ to bless the home and to stay with those who dwell in it throughout the entire year.*



## JANUARY 6 - EPIPHANY CHALKING THE DOOR

### **What do you need?**

Blessed Chalk (available at SJA after masses Jan. 2 and 3), and the following Epiphany prayers.

### **How do you mark your door?**

Using blessed chalk, the most senior family member writes on or above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B + 21

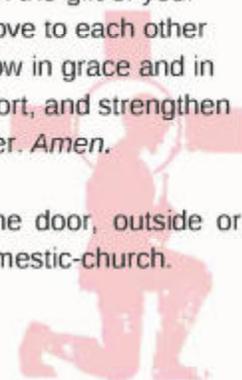
### **While saying:**

The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-one years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. *Amen.*

### **Then together the family offers the following prayer:**

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. *Amen.*

Note: This can be done on more than one door, outside or inside the home. See more at [sjascs.org/domestic-church](http://sjascs.org/domestic-church).



## Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### Monday, January 4th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Tuesday, January 5th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Wednesday, January 6th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Thursday, January 7th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Friday, January 8th

7:00 am Public Morning Mass - Live Streamed

#### Saturday, January 9th

10:00 am Wedding for Paul/Zaidel-Tuttle

11:00 am Reconciliation

1:00 pm Wedding Burns/Herman

4:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Public Mass - Live Streamed

#### Sunday, January 10th

8:00 am Public Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Baptism—Kennedy Waldrep

12:00 pm Public Mass -Live Streamed

### Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Though we have returned to public masses we will continue our Live Stream Broadcasts of all celebrations.

- Weekdays -7 am Mass - (Monday thru Friday)
- Saturdays - 4 pm and 6 pm Masses
- Sundays - 8 am and 12 pm Masses
- Thursdays - 7 pm Holy Hour

Go to: [livestream.stjoan.church](http://livestream.stjoan.church) to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

### Words on the Word

#### January 3, 2021 – Cold Weather, Warm Heart

As we hunker down now into the coldest, darkest days of a long winter, it's helpful to remind ourselves that there's a loving warmth in the world that continues to burn strong.

A national news service reported a few weeks ago on a business owner from Pensacola, Fla., who donated more than \$7,600 to his city to help pay overdue utility bills owed by 114 of his neighbors. The gesture followed a similar donation last year, in which he paid more than \$4,500 worth of overdue utility balances for 36 families.

He did it, he said, because his area, which generally thrives on tourism dollars, had been particularly hard hit this year between the coronavirus pandemic and Hurricane Sally. He also did it, he said, because many years ago he was in a particularly difficult financial spot and had to choose between paying his gas bill and putting food on the table for his three daughters.

This year's gesture became contagious, prompting others in the community to chip in another \$2,500 for the cause.

Such gifts of the heart surely go a long way in spreading goodwill in a world that so desperately needs it.

"After their audience with the king they set out," we hear of the magi in today's gospel from St. Matthew. "And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

Giftng the payment of a gas bill for other people is fundamentally different, to be sure.

Then again, is it really?

*Happy New Year*  
**2021**

# Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

## Mass Intentions

- Monday January 4, 2021 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (White)**  
7:00 a.m. Virgil Medley and Arline Heckman
- Tuesday January 5, 2021 Saint John Neumann, Bishop (White)**  
7:00 a.m. John Gaines
- Wednesday January 6, 2021 Christmas Weekday, Saint Andre' Bessette, Religious (White/White)**  
7:00 a.m. Joan Messecar
- Thursday January 7, 2021 Christmas Weekday, Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest (White/White)**  
7:00 a.m. Ann Terlescki
- Friday January 8, 2021 Christmas Weekday (White)**  
7:00 a.m. Jerome Rogier
- Saturday January 9, 2021 Christmas Weekday (White)**  
4:00 p.m. Bonnie Batche, The J. Champine Family, a Special Intention for the Thomas Family, Henry Toenjjes  
6:00 p.m. Joan Weber
- Sunday January 10, 2021 The Baptism of the Lord (White)**  
8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Joan of Arc Parishioners  
12:00 p.m. William Harding

## Weekly Readings

- Monday, January 4**  
1 John 3:22-4:-6  
Matthew 4:12-17,23-25
- Friday, January 8**  
1 John 5:5-13  
Luke 5:12-16
- Tuesday, January 5**  
1 John 4:7-10  
Mark 6:34-44
- Saturday, January 9**  
1 John 5:14-21  
John 3:22-30
- Wednesday, January 6**  
1 John 4:11-18  
Mark 6:45-52
- Sunday, January 10**  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Acts 10:34-38  
Mark 1:7-11
- Thursday, January 7**  
1 John 4:19-5:4  
Luke 4:14-22a



## I Am The Resurrection & The Life

“Heavenly Father, welcome home those who you have called from this world and grant peace and consolation to their families.”

**Donald Ancypa  
Mary Jane Naz  
William Scanlan  
Mary Gillen**



I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be

## 8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive is Back!

The Class of 2021 is in full swing with their can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their events and trips for the coming year.

Bring your returnables in bags to the Parish Center - West SIDE DOOR - (near Father Andrew's House) please.

There is a large plastic bin with a lid that they can be placed in.



Thank you for your support.



**Time for an Epiphany epiphany:** I always find January to be somewhat of a schizophrenic month. It always amazes me that

New Year's celebrations have become a combination of a "good riddance to the old" attitude and great hope for the New Year and new start. That's all the more pronounced this year after the year that 2020 was. I can't help but think that each year we get blinded by the flash of our own fireworks. How easily we forget each year all the blessings of the year gone, the year that we looked forward to so much on the previous December 31st.

So this wasn't the year we hoped for, but every day is the day the Lord has made, so let us rejoice and be glad. We ought never to say "good riddance to anything the Lord said "okay" to. Anything the Lord permits to happen, even trials, is something to be thankful for, in that it offers us such opportunities for growth in our faith and reliance on God, and is therefore a chance to deepen our love for Him. How much more hopeful would we feel if, on December 31st, 2021 we were celebrating a New Year, thankful for the year gone and anticipating what more God has in store in the year ahead? Maybe that idea would make a great New Year's Resolution..... to look at what God sets before us and to look for where Jesus is present in this present moment, in this situation, in this diagnosis, in this loss of security, in this anxiety, in this lost job, etc. How much could we stand to gain from an understanding of how God is active and working in us every day—that He's not absent from the hope we had for the year? I'm sure that could benefit us all more than running a mile every day, or saying "no" to that bag of chocolate (Msgr. Mike editorial comment: who wants to say "no" to chocolate anyway?!).

This Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the Revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. We commemorate principally the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem to see the Christ Child. This day celebrates the manifestation of Emmanuel, God with us, appearing for the first time to the Gentiles.... to us. It was a sign from the beginning that though Jews came to the Jews and ministered to the Jews, God's promise of Salvation is for the whole of the human race. How will God be manifested to you this

New Year? Where will you find Him? The Magi went to great length to find Jesus. They want to find Him to "do him homage." Herod also want to find Jesus, but certainly not to do him homage, but even his evil intent expresses itself, ironically, in good advice for the Magi and for us: "Go and search diligently for the child."

2021 will be a blessed year for us if we make sure that Christ is at the center of it. Much of our world did not do that in 2020. If we are living out our calling as Christians who have witnessed the manifestation of God among us, it should be an epiphany for us, a revelation of what God has done and is doing for us. And then, by rights, that ought to impact us profoundly. Our faith is personal, but it is not private. A relationship with God that remains private can never be an authentic relationship because it is always a response of "no" to God. A private faith says "yes Lord I want you, but I am not prepared to love you enough to go to the trouble to share you." And yet that's what God demands of us—a reciprocal love to extends out into our community to share the Good News of the Gospel, so that all those He loves might know it. If that sound inconvenient, if that sounds like a sacrifice.... Good, then you've identified what love looks like in God's eyes. Tell Jesus about your sacrifice to love. Tell Mary, holding her newborn baby, in a stable, what your sacrifice looks like. She understands.

Herod's ill-intended words to the Magi are still words we should pay attention to: "When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." That is our Christian duty. That is what Christian love looks like, what concern for others looks like—we should want others to see the Lord as He has been shown to us. In our families, in our communities, in our workplaces, in all our social circles, wherever our travels take us, we have searched out and found the Lord. One of the greatest missed opportunities of this Christmas would be if, having awaited the Lord's arrival all though Advent, and having seen Him appear to us in Bethlehem, we then leave Him there at Christmas, in the manger, and don't take Him with us the rest of this New Year—if we leave Him in the manger and don't bring word to others so that they can meet Him and come to know Him as we do.

"Bringing word" to others doesn't have to be dramatic. We don't have to stand on a

soap-box on a street corner and yell at passers-by. We just have to let the joy of knowing Christ, the assurance of having faith, the confidence of having hope show itself to others. People should look at our faces and look at our lives and hear the words we use and know that there is something going on in our lives that they want in their own, even if they can't put their finger on it. Then we look for the opportunities to speak of what and Who it is. That it's Jesus! - He's the one we've hired to manage the portfolio of our lives, and that He's profiting us greatly. He's the source of our confidence, our faith, our assurance, our joy. Then we will become an epiphany to others, revealing God to them, revealing the divine presence within us. In this New Year, let's make a Resolution to imitate the Magi, that having witnessed the Christ at Christmas, we depart "by another way." Perhaps Matthew's Gospel uses these words not simply to say that the Magi were trying to avoid Herod, but that from that moment, they departed another way—they lived their lives differently from then on.

**Gold, Frankincense and an Air Fryer:** Cooking is not something I see as a hobby. Maybe it's because I'm British....enough said. No, it's just a task to me, a means to an end. I never want to cook anything so complicated that I can't wash the dishes before sitting down to eat without my food going cold. If it goes cold, I used too many pans. To that end, when I left St. Fabian, the Faith Formation office bought me an air fryer. I admit, I was skeptical. Honestly, I just didn't get the concept.... frying with air... Still not sure I do. But it's been a revelation (an epiphany?!). I have yet to find anything I can't cook in it, and always in a jiffy. So was cooking dinner and sending photos to those who gave me the gift. This Christmas, I bought one for my sister and my parents. Now my sister has turned into me, sending me daily photos of her dinner! Her eyes have been opened. My parents are usually a little slower to embrace such a "new-fangled machine" as this, so we'll wait and see. Anyway, the point is, share the blessings of your life, whether it be your relationship with Jesus, or a new and strange kitchen appliance. Evangelize. Epiphanyize!!(?)

You are in my prayers this week.  
Fr. Andrew [adawson@sjascs.org](mailto:adawson@sjascs.org)

[adawson@sjascs.org](mailto:adawson@sjascs.org)

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace.

Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass.

Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,*

*Come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there*

*And unite myself wholly to you.*

*Never permit me to be separated from you.*

Amen.

*Spend an hour  
with me.*

*Jesus*

## HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm, Thursdays  
in the Church*

**and streaming live online at  
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Facebook @sjascs**

First and third  
Thursdays include  
Praise and Worship  
music, second and  
fourth are silent.

# Readings for the Baptism of the Lord



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 10, 2021

### Reading 1 - Isaiah

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

### Responsorial Psalm 29

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my savior, I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

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Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

### Reading 2 – 1 John

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth. So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord. If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

### Gospel – Mark

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

January 3, 2021

## The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The Christmas tree has become a fire hazard, shedding needles everywhere. The kids have cast aside their new toys. Perhaps we've overspent this holiday season and are vaguely anxious about the bills. The bookmark in our Advent devotional is stuck at Dec. 9, and we've already blown a couple New Year's resolutions. And yet, the words of prophet Isaiah shake us out of our doldrums: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you ... Raise your eyes and look about." Freed from the busyness of the holiday season, we get a kind of do-over. Even on the grayest of winter days, Christ's light breaks through in this new year and presents new opportunities to open ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit acting in our lives. Let us pray for the grace to recognize it.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I love the feast of the Epiphany because I went into labor with my oldest son that night; he came into the world on a rainy, blustery Monday morning in 1998. I remember the joy my healthy baby boy brought to me and my husband, his grandmas, aunts, uncles and cousins. Imagine the joy the Wise Men must have felt when they followed that star and saw baby Jesus for the first time! They praised the Christ Child with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God still dwells among us today, and the Light of Christ beckons us all to follow it. As we bless our homes this Epiphany and pray, "May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love," let us witness to God's presence in our homes and in our hearts by offering Christ our very own gifts - of our lives and our abiding faith in him.

**PRAY** the Blessing of the Home and Household: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love."

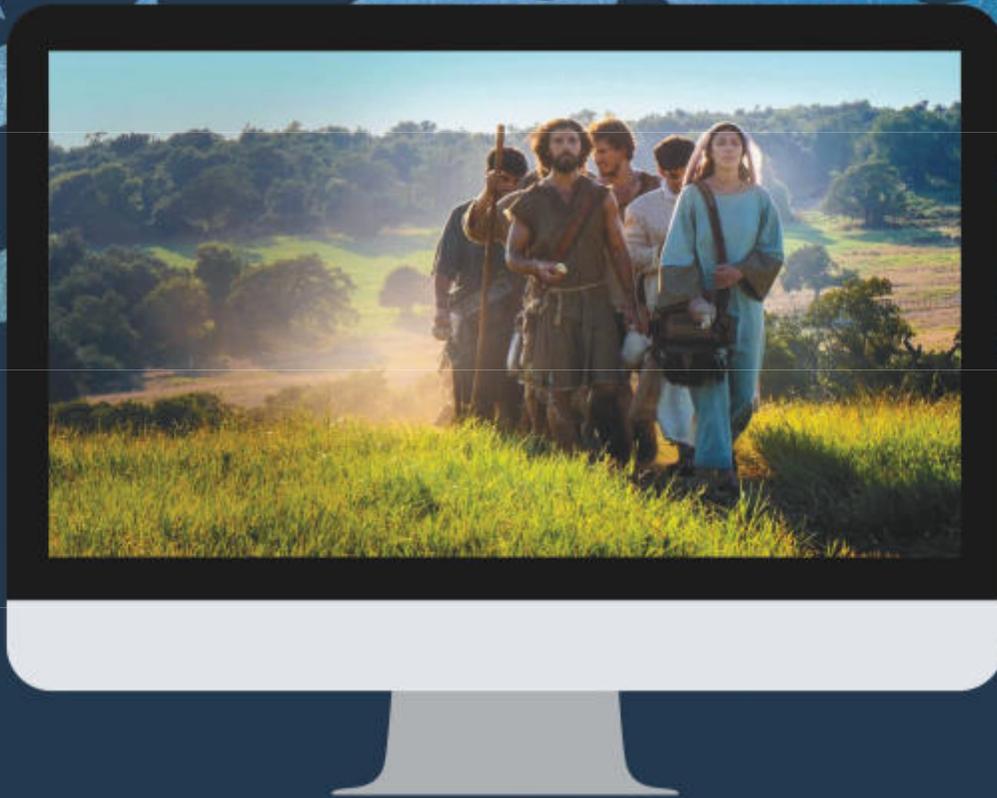


RESET

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Ted Barthel	Mary DiTrapani	Alleyn Hunt	Toni Pantano	Ingrid Stemmerich
Atina Beaugrand	Marie DuPont	James Kammer	Fern Pascany	Donald Strobbe
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Peter Bogos	Merrie Foerster	Delaney Kraemer	Lawrence Radzowski	James Thompson
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Victoria Cornwell	Jane Gora	Joan Mannino	Janet Saponaro	Thomas Ziolkowski
Joan DeDene	Larry Graham	Louis Mascia	Alex Scapini	
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Alan DePorter	Mary Harbart	Lee Majewski	Evelyn Smith	



**Pray for the Sick List:** Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at [info@sjasc.org](mailto:info@sjasc.org).

## PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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# Bringing Home the Word

*The Epiphany of the Lord (B)*  
January 3, 2021

## Reaching Far and Wide

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In Vincent Malo's painting, *The Adoration of the Magi*, a mysterious scene barely comes to light before us. Are we inside or outside of a Roman portico? What is going on in the background? The central scene clearly shows the Child Jesus perched in the Virgin's arms and surrounded by swaddling clothes. A glow emanates from the Child that enlightens the three Wise Men processing toward Jesus. Their whole caravan chaotically crowds around and strains to see the king they have come to worship.

A dalmatian wanders behind while a camel appears in the backlighting with a knowing smirk. The Ethiopian

sage sympathetically stares out from the center of the painting and seemingly asks us if we understand the significance of their travels.

The arrival of these astronomers from the East sends a very important message for all of us at Mass today. Jesus is the light of the whole world, and all peoples—no matter how far or how lost—are invited by his attractive and saving light. This light came to the Chosen People and will be fully consumed in Jerusalem as Isaiah prophesies. Yet he will proclaim that all peoples are invited to be members of the same family and coheirs to the treasures of God's love and mercy. Faith in him and acceptance of his gospel truth is all he asks. So, no matter how far you or anyone you know seems from Jesus and his truth, he loves them and wants them around his table to experience his love. +

### Sunday Readings

#### Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

#### Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

#### Matthew 2:1-12

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Jesus is the light of the whole world, and to all peoples—no matter how far away or how lost.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship.... For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center, not ourselves.

Epiphany Homily, January 6, 2020



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Do you trust that Jesus wants to and can reach any soul, no matter how far away?
- Will you renew your prayer and gentle testimony to invite those who are still searching?

# Resolutions of Faith

By Kathleen M. Basi

**I**t's a new year. What will you do to live your faith in 2021?

New Year's seems tailor-made for changing for the better. Sometimes it's weight loss or exercise; at other times, we look to our spiritual life, vowing to set aside daily prayer time or regularly go to reconciliation. But goals are fleeting; as motivation falters, good intentions fall by the wayside. Some people have become so jaded they don't even bother anymore.

Resolutions require us to abandon old patterns and institute new ones—to turn our backs on our former ways and seek renewal. If that sounds like spiritual exercise, that's because it is. Actions become habits for a reason. To undo them requires ongoing sacrifice, and for that we need God's help. But it seems so trivial to call in God to help us lose weight. Diet and exercise have nothing to do with faith, right?

Not so fast. The central truth behind St. John Paul II's theology of the body is that as beings with both a body and a soul, our divine purpose is to reflect God's love for the world in the way we use our bodies. In our work, in the way we treat our bodies, even in our most intimate relationships, we are called to love as God loves—fully and sacrificially. Otherwise, we're not really living our faith. We're just playing pretend.

'To go to daily Mass is good; to take what we learn there and do something with it is better. 'To read Scripture every



morning is good; to allow the word to burrow down and needle our souls until we have to get up and act on it is better. Even a diet can be a spiritual exercise, if it's undertaken out of respect for the gift of the body we've been given.

None of us can change for the better on the strength of our own will. We need God walking hand in hand with us, holding us accountable and reminding us why it matters. When we're used to turning to God again and again throughout the day—even for something as trivial as a diet—it bleeds into other areas of our life too. The sacred lures with the secular, and we truly become beings who (as the *Baltimore Catechism*

said) show God's goodness by knowing, loving, and serving him in this world.

It's a new year. What will you do to live your faith? |

*To read Scripture every morning is good; to allow the word to burrow down and needle our souls until we have to get up and act on it is better.*



*Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and others.*

From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*.  
Rev. Warren L. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 4–9

**Monday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:**  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6 / Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

**Tuesday, St. John Neumann:**  
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44

**Wednesday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

**Thursday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4 / Lk 4:14–22

**Friday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Lk 5:12–16

**Saturday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 3:22–30

Bringing Home  
the Word   
January 3, 2021

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