



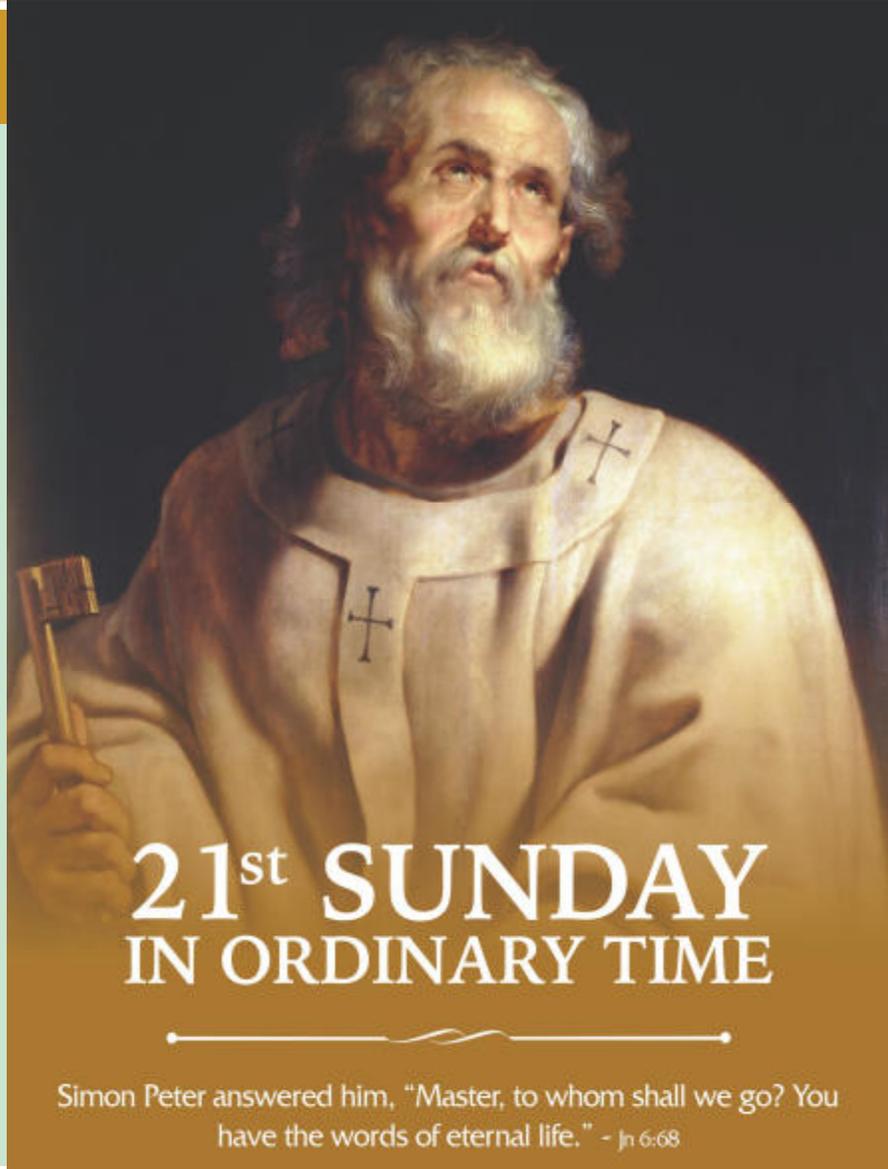
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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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21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." - Jn 6:68

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: repopffice@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

Faith Formation

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

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Exceptional Children
TBD

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjascs.org

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am
& 12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays ~ 11:00am—12:00pm
in the Sister Carol Center (adjacent
to church)

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7a mass
outside in the school courtyard
(weather permitting).

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is open
Monday - Thursday from 8:30am-5pm
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.

RCIA: Please call the Parish Center (586-777-3670).

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 OR by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

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, 10 am & 12 pm Masses**
- **Thursdays - 7 pm Holy Hour**

Go to: livestream.stjoan.church to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.



Father Tech's Technology:

Recently, I was on the phone with Father Bob Spezia, our Vicar for Clergy, who I work with daily as part of my "downtown job."

I was trying to establish a conference call on my cell phone with a few of us, and of course, I was having issues. For whatever reason, more often than not, when I try to establish a conference call on my cell phone, the conversation turns out garbled. I've worked with Verizon and a few others more than you can imagine because I live on Zoom and conference calls during the day and I need my technology to work! Of course, no one has this issue but me; so I'm often told! I call it the "SJA FACTOR." Those who know me well know that I often blame Sr. Sarge ... a.k.a., Sr. Marie Gregory (God rest her soul) for these technological glitches at SJA! I'm not sure why I singled her out for this distinctive "honor," but I figure I needed someone to blame. And believe me, I know I will pay dearly in Heaven for all the times I've "invoked" her name! Hopefully, I'll be able to divert her attention from me by finding a TV and watching some Washington football game (her favorite team); it will be sheer penance for me and a joy for her!

Back to my issues ... at least this one. Well, the Verizon folks have tried resetting my phone, turning off my HD calling feature, and a few other things, but nothing seems to correct the problem. So, as a result, I try to establish most conference calls on my office phone. But there are times when that's not possible, and I have to say a prayer and try the connection on my cell phone. You also have to understand that I have this reputation not only in the parish but also throughout the AOD as being "Father Technology." So I try to live up to people's expectations. But when Father Tech has issues (which is often), his problems are enormous, unusual, and unlike any other documented tech issue!

As I mentioned, this one particular call failed MISERABLY. Of course, it was an important call, and I had to drop it because all we heard was undecipherable digital gibberish a few minutes into the call. I'm sure I mumbled a few words, and then I got Father Spezia back on the phone. He burst into laughter as soon as I got him on

the line. I finally asked him why he was laughing because I was frustrated beyond belief and not amused at all. Once his laughter started to wane, he finally said, "I've never known someone so technologically advanced as you who at the same time has SO MANY technology issues even with the simplest of things like a conference call! It's pretty funny!" "HAHA," I thought to myself while rolling my eyes. Yes, technology issues tend to humble Father Technology pretty quick ... AND send him to the confessional more often than you can imagine!

School News: As I write this (Tuesday, August 17), I looked at the calendar and realized school starts in TWO WEEKS! YIKES. What happened to summer? I ask that every year. I'm amazed by how fast summer flies!

With the start of this school year, we have some changes in administration. While I made an announcement by email mid-summer about the news of our new principal and assistant principal, I realized I didn't print this information in the bulletin. Although I try to make sure I use both print and electronic media at all times, I slip from time to time (remember, I'm getting old).

Earlier this year, Mrs. Kathy Kalich, our former principal, announced her retirement. We immediately formed a search committee and posted the job opening. A total of 11 people applied for the position. Working with the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department for Catholic Schools, the candidate pool was narrowed to 3 individuals. We interviewed two of those candidates. The candidates participated in two rigorous interviews. I'm grateful to those who accepted my invitation to serve on our search committee. Besides myself, the following were part of the Principal Search Committee: Fr. Andrew Dawson; Laura Knaus - Associate Superintendent AOD Department of Catholic Schools; Dina Ciaffone - SJA Business Manager; Paula Crippen - SJA School Parent; Barb Hendrick - SJA Leadership Team and Retired Preschool Aide; Kevin Hendrick - SJA Leadership Team; Karen Lazar - SJA Teacher; and Linda Lietaert - SJA Teacher.



After several rounds of interviews, Mrs. Amy Pattie was selected and appointed as our new principal. Mrs. Pattie is no stranger to St. Joan of

Arc School. She was hired in 2009 as a Junior High Teacher, where she taught Math and English primarily. Mrs. Pattie and her husband Roger, and their two children, Ryan and Jacob, have been members of and actively involved at our parish since she began her teaching career here in 2009.

Mrs. Pattie holds a Masters in Educational Leadership from Madonna University (2020), a Masters in Math Education from Wayne State University (2013), and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Wayne State University (2006). She currently holds a School Administrator Certification, a Professional Teaching Certification (EX: Mathematics and RX: Social Studies), a Standard Teaching Certification, and a Catechetical Certification.



At the same time, with the official retirement of Ms. Mary Pat Brennan as our assistant principal, I appointed Mr. Charles Kaiser as our new assistant principal. Like Mrs.

Pattie, Mr. Kaiser is no stranger to SJA; he and his wife Kristina and children Michael, Vivian, and Charles are also actively involved at SJA! Mr. Kaiser will work alongside Mrs. Pattie in the administration of the school, handling primarily many of the day-to-day "Dean of Students" type of tasks.

Both Mrs. Pattie and Mr. Kaiser will work closely with me, our Leadership Team and other Pastoral Staff members as we continue to implement Archbishop Vigneron's vision laid out in his pastoral letter entitled, *Unleash the Gospel*, so that St. Joan of Arc Parish and School become true centers of evangelization and discipleship. At the same time, we will continue to implement our parish's core values of being faith-filled to the core; joyful on the journey and being charitable in all that we do.

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Pattie and Mr. Kaiser as they begin this vital work and ministry for Christ and for us.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjscs.org

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

August 22, 2021

WATCH

AUGUSTINE: A VOICE FOR ALL GENERATIONS WITH MIKE AQUILINA

During this very special week for the Augustine Institute, we celebrate both our patron, St. Augustine, and his mother, St. Monica! As a preeminent Doctor of the Church, Augustine has been said to be “the holiest of the wise and the wisest of the holy.” To celebrate this great Church Father, please enjoy Augustine: A Voice for all Generations!



LEARN

FORMED NOW: THE FEAST OF SAINT MONICA



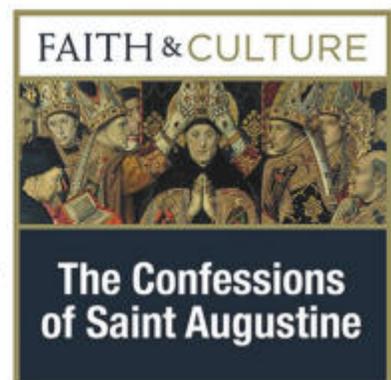
Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son.

In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, “the son of those tears surely will not perish.” Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss more about this great Saint.

LISTEN

THE FAITH AND CULTURE PODCAST: THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE

In this episode of the Faith and Culture podcast, Joseph Pearce and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the most towering Church Father of the West, St. Augustine. Together, Pearce and Sehorn describe the purpose of Augustine's Confessions, the relatability of this Saint, and his impact on the world in his own time and culture. Finally, they discuss what we can learn from Augustine today.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Silent and Live
Auction & Dinner



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE GALA THIS YEAR:

- We're returning to **LOCHMOOR CLUB** in **GPW!** And we've shifted this year's event to the Fall.
- The Gala is our largest fundraiser to benefit the school. **Attend or buy raffle tickets** to support this event.
- **We need your donations.** Contact the School or Parish Center to learn how to donate Silent and Live Auction items.
- **There's a spot for you.** Join the Gala Planning Committee or volunteer to help the night of the Gala.

CONTACT US:

Pam Graskewicz (pgraskewicz@hotmail.com) or Matt Wyszczelski (hfd75@aol.com)

We ENCOURAGE everyone to dress in your favorite Bavarian attire for this year's Gala...

BEST OUTFIT CONTEST!

Barrels of fun for 15 Years!!!

OCTOBER 16, 2021 @ LOCHMOOR CLUB





Silent Auction & Dinner

CONTRIBUTOR FORM

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

auction items

One of the greatest sources of revenue for the Gala event comes from items that are auctioned. These items are donated by local businesses as well as from private individuals, many of whom are families of St. Joan of Arc School. If you would like to donate an auction item, or know of somebody that you can ask... this would go a long way to helping this year's auction be especially successful.

grand-prize raffle tickets

Our grand prize raffle is the backbone of this fundraiser. Only with steady sales of tickets for this raffle over several months can the Gala committee bring you the Gala dinner and auction event. For ticket sales information, check with the Parish and School offices. Help by buying tickets or becoming a ticket agent, selling them to friends, family or coworkers.

dinner & auction tickets

Come to the Gala event on Oct. 16, 2021. Party with your friends and members of the School and Parish community. Enjoy a gourmet dinner, open bar, live entertainment, live and silent auctions, raffles and much more. The event will be held at the prestigious Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods.



advertise

Advertise your product or service in our keepsake Gala Auction Item catalog.

volunteer

Join our 100% volunteer committee that plans and works this event.

The Gala committee meets once per month. Meeting dates as well as general information about this SJAA event can be found on the Gala website:

www.sjaauction.org

Our Annual Gala event has grown to become an important source of funds for St. Joan of Arc School. Help us continue supporting the children, faculty and families of our school.

DUE DATE: Oct. 1, 2021

Donor: Please print clearly so we may accurately acknowledge your company in our

Name: _____ Date: _____

Company Name: _____ Phone# _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Auction Item/Cash Donation: Please include any restrictions and expiration dates.

Donation Description: _____

Total Donor Value: \$ _____ Gift certificate included _____ Event committee to create _____

Contact Matt Wyszczelski at 313-683-1972 or mw75@aol.com for donation pick-up or event questions.

Program Ad: Please attach business card or email camera ready ad to Gala@sjaauction.net

_____ Back Cover Ad in Full Color \$1,000 _____ 1/4 Page Ad (B & W) \$160
 _____ Inside Cover Ads in Full Color \$500 _____ Business Card (B & W) \$75
 _____ Full Page Ad (B & W) \$250

Contact Matt Wyszczelski at 313-683-1972 for any questions regarding advertising in the program booklet.

Event Tickets: \$100.00/ea. (Sold online. Available in 2020, check sjaauction.org for details)

Please make all checks payable to St. Joan of Arc School. Please submit donations and ads no later than October 1, 2021 to ensure recognition in the Gala program. The Gala committee reserves the right to hold any item received after the deadline for the 2022 Gala.

**GRAND PRIZE
RAFFLE**

\$5,000 in prizes: one (1) \$3000, one (1) \$1000 and two (2) \$500 cash prizes. Tickets are available for \$20 each or six for \$100.

22415 Overlake Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48060
 Office: 588-775-8370 Website: www.sjaauction.org

TAX ID NO. 38-1420318



Auction Program

ADVERTISING SPECIFICATIONS

➔ **ORDER DUE DATE: October 1, 2021**

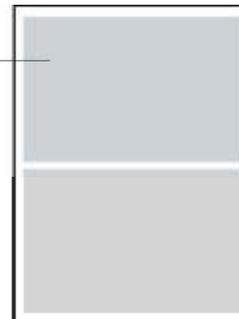
Back Cover Ad

Color: Full Color
Size: 8" x 10.5"
Cost: \$1,000



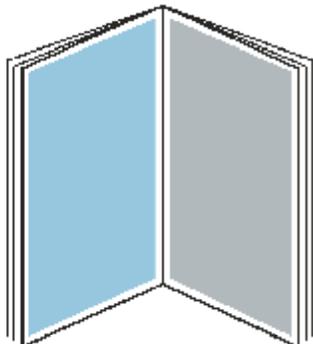
1/2 Page

Color: Black & White
Size: 8" x 5.125"
Cost: \$150



Full Page Color

Color: Full Color
Size: 8" x 10.5"
Cost: \$500

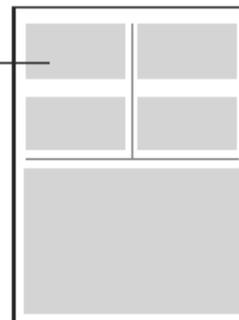


Full Page B&B

Color: Black & White
Size: 8" x 10.5"
Cost: \$250

Business Card Ad

Color: Black & White
Size: 3.5" x 2"
Cost: \$75



Ad Order:

_____ Back Cover Ad in Full Color \$1,000

_____ 1/2 Page Ad (B & W) \$150

_____ Full Page Ad (Color) \$500

_____ Business Card (B & W) \$75

_____ Full Page Ad (B & W) \$250

Name: _____ Date: _____

Company Name: _____ Phone# _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Publication Notes:

The program trims to 8.5" x 11". The entire booklet is no-bleed and will carry a 1/4-inch margin throughout.

**DUE DATE:
October 1, 2021**

Digital camera-ready artwork can be sent via email attachment to gala@stjoan.net

Contact: Matt Wyszczelski, 313-683-1972, hfd75@aol.com

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, August 23rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, August 24th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am heART of Faith

Wednesday, August 25th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, August 26th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour (Silent Adoration)
Live Streamed

Friday, August 27th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

5:00 pm Baptism of Amelia L. Economou

Saturday, August 28th

10:00 am Funeral of James Zerwick

11:00 am Reconciliation

1:30 pm Baptism of June H. Brennan

2:30 pm Baptism of Eleanor M. Mattis

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, August 29th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

August 22, 2021 – To Whom Shall We Go?

Technology can, without a doubt, make our lives better. The convenience, connectivity, and information availability we take for granted thanks to the Internet, cell phones, apps, and so forth, can be great blessings.

As we sometimes see, though, like anything else, they can create problems, too.

Media across the country reported a few weeks ago on the issues that were created when a prominent member of the national clergy was discovered to have been using an inappropriate cell phone app.

That situation gave rise to several journalistic ethics questions, and technology tracking/privacy questions, as well. Even *The Wall Street Journal* did an investigative piece exploring those issues.

But, perhaps even more disheartening, the situation gave rise to the usual clergy morality questions that pop up in circumstances such as this. We've seen it all too often; a variation of the argument that, because particular individuals are alleged (or actually did) make wrong choices, the Church overall should not carry the moral and religious authority that it does.

In the final analysis, that's a flawed argument, of course. We know that the earthen vessels entrusted with our faith are fragile, but the tenets of the faith, itself, are solid and true.

We also know that, even in the face of difficulty and scandal, our ultimate salvation comes to us, via the Church, through the Eucharist. This is where we belong. That's a reality that is directly addressed in today's gospel passage from St. John.

"Master, to whom shall we go?" Simon Peter says to Jesus after "many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."

"You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

© 2021 Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday August 23, 2021 Weekday Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin (Green/White)

7:00 a.m. Antonietta Mazzella and Thomas Gillette

Tuesday August 24, 2021 Saint Bartholomew, Apostle (Red)

7:00 a.m. The deceased members of the Calisi Family who died in the month of August

Wednesday August 25, 2021 Weekday Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest (Green/White/White)

7:00 a.m. Paul Daudlin and Linda LaHood

Thursday August 26, 2021 Weekday (Green)

7:00 a.m. Deacon Robert Busch

Friday August 27, 2021 Saint Monica (White)

7:00 a.m. Elsie Zaranek and Mary Gillen

Saturday August 28, 2021 Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (White)

4:00 p.m. Giovanni Ciccone, Bonnie Batche, Paul R. Kerby, Florence Semany, Pio Alberti, Albert Czekaj, Marion Zapytowski, John Leroy Boman, Bob Fannon and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, the J. Champine Family and Christine Bugarin

6:00 p.m. Hugo Calisi

Sunday August 29, 2021 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green)

8:00 a.m. For the intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners

10:00 a.m. A Special Intention for Cathy Spindler

12:00 p.m. Peter Sarra, Loretta Fortunato, Kip Swihart, Mary Valenti, Anna Maria Dolunt, Marion Zapytowski, Edward Rago

Daily Readings

Monday, August 23

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 24

Revelation 21:9b-14
John 1:45-51

Wednesday, August 25

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday, August 26

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday, August 27

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday, August 28

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, August 29

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



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.”

**Salvatore Ciaravino
Margaret Obrzut
Salvatore Licavoli**



“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 to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General’s Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse.

Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is



Drawing a Line in the Sand: Looking at today's readings, the idiom that comes to mind is "drawing a line in the sand."

According to the source of all

knowledge, Wikipedia, the phrase has two meanings:

"The first meaning is of a point (physical, decisional, etc.) beyond which one will proceed no further."

"The second meaning is that of a point beyond which, once the decision to go beyond it is made, the decision and its resulting consequences are permanently decided and irreversible."

In 1836, William Travis, while commanding the US defenders of the Alamo and contemplating a demand for surrender, etched a line in the sand and asked those willing to remain and defend the Alamo to their deaths to step across the line.

Today we hear Joshua do the same. He's asking for commitment from the Israelites. Like Moses, Joshua's last official leadership act was to call "all the tribes of Israel to Shechem" to, once again, call on the people to renew their faithfulness to God and His covenant. Beginning with Abraham, Joshua recounted the history of God's faithfulness to Israel up to that very moment. Joshua did something then that Moses never did—a step of vulnerability and risk that isolated him and could have separated him from his millions of fellow Israelites. After exhorting them to cast aside the gods of Mesopotamia and Egypt and fear Yahweh only, the God of their Fathers, he said, ". . . decide today whom you will serve, . . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Drawing a line in the sand—"Decide today whom you will serve"—is a risky decision. But leaders who rule by principle rather than polls are not afraid to take that stand, to risk isolation. Joshua had already decided whom he and his family would serve and fear regardless of what anyone else decided.

We are frequently asked to commit, to decide which side of the line we stand on, but do we make that decision and see it as a solemn vow? How often does our *yes* mean *yes* and our *no* mean *no*?

When the people responded, "We will serve the Lord!" Joshua ups the stakes, and challenges them, "Now therefore, put away the strange gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people wanted all the blessings of God's covenant, but also wanted to keep their options open. Joshua has to tell them that that won't work. The commitment they make must be more than words. It must be a commitment that defines how they live. If they won't throw out the idols, they shouldn't deceive themselves thinking God will forgive them.

The line in the sand Joshua is drawing is the second Wikipedia definition—it's a decision that cannot be undone. It's the kind of commitment we are asked to make in determining to follow a vocation to the priesthood or religious life; it's the yes made in marriage or on behalf of your infant at baptism—that no matter the challenges, no matter how it isolates us from others, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

I remember in my first year in seminary my spiritual director saying "never draw a line in the sand." This wasn't the kind of line he was referring to. He told me that when he had been a seminarian, he had a friend he put on a pedestal in terms of having it all together. His friend seemed so holy, disciplined, smart and just a sure-fire thing, he was definitely going to be a priest in my director's mind. Then that friend left the seminary and my director was left asking himself, "if HE left, where does that leave *me*? If HE seemed so clearly destined to be a priest yet discerned out, how can *I* be called?" This was the first Wikipedia definition of the line in the sand—I can do this only up to this point—he draw the line at his friend, beyond whom he could not possibly be called to be a priest. And that was a crisis for him, until he could discern that we are not all the same and we must avoid that kind of comparison and standard marking.

This definition of drawing the line in the sand is what is going on in the Gospel today. The Jews have heard Jesus tell them that unless they eat His flesh and drink His blood they have no life within them. To this point, they have been following Jesus, listening to what He has to say and enjoying that He's been feeding them, literally. Jesus is the new show in town and the people like all of this. But now, this new teaching....wait a

minute, now He's crossed a line beyond which the Jews will not go. This teaching, the way they understand it, is contrary to the Mosaic law and on this point, they will not compromise. Hats off to them for their commitment, the trouble is that they are committed to the wrong teachings. Their faith will not allow them to be stretched to see that Jesus is giving them the truth. Not being willing to compromise and step over the line in the sand when you are in the wrong is not helpful to us. We are used to seeing politicians and leaders today who hold firm to the line they have drawn, even when they have clearly been proven wrong. That's not authentic commitment, but rather pridefulness that prevents them admitting when they are wrong. Jesus wants our commitment, but He wants us to commit and stand-up for what is right, even if it challenges us, even if others will ridicule us— "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Jesus, Himself, has drawn a line in the sand at this teaching on the Eucharist. He does not back down when the people are shocked at his words. He does not soften their impact. He does not tell them they have misunderstood. He does not tell them He was speaking figuratively. This is the line in the sand; "the words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."

Jesus knew some people would not be able to cross that line and believe Him. But He does not compromise on His words and in His teachings. He's prepared to accept that some will be lost: "Do you also want to leave?" Jesus asks the Apostles. He make them free to decide this for themselves—are you with me or are you not? It's a decision we all have to make—when the words and teachings of Jesus, given to us through the Church, are tough and challenge us, when they don't mesh with what we think, Jesus asks us, "Are you with me, or are you not?" It's not always easy to answer *yes*, but when we do and we stand with Him, we never really have to risk isolation.

It's always better to let Jesus be the one to draw the line in the sand, not us. And then make sure you stand on the same side of that line as Jesus.

You are in my prayers this week.
Fr. Andrew 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.



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 29

Reading One – Dt 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: "Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

Responsorial Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5

R. The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice; who thinks the truth in his heart and slanders not with his tongue.

R. The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who harms not his fellow man, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor; by whom the reprobate is despised, while he honors those who fear the LORD.

R. The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Who lends not his money at usury and accepts no bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things shall never be disturbed.

R. The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Reading Two – Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Alleluia – Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

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August 22, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b | Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 | Jn 6:60-69

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

Have you ever felt nervous in standing up for something, or in taking a position on an issue? Even when the stakes are not particularly high, like a classroom debate over an author's meaning in her text or requesting that customer service fix a take-out order gone awry, it can be nerve-wracking for many of us to have this kind of engagement. It is especially difficult when we sense conflict. Why is that? Why do we care so much what others think of us? What about when the stakes are literally life or death? In today's first reading, Joshua is imploring the people to decide which god they will serve, and he boldly proclaims: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." In the Gospel, some of Jesus' disciples reject his teachings and drift back to "their former way of life." Jesus asks the Twelve whether they, too, "want to leave." Simon Peter responds with the rhetorical question, "Master, to whom [else] shall we go?" Like Joshua, he is bold in his own pronouncement: "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Today's readings encourage and exhort us to go "all in" when it comes to discipleship. The implication is clear: it matters not what others think of us, or what attraction they might hold for us to acquiesce to them. God alone is the source of life, and the truth. He offers us a way – it's that simple. We simply must decide to serve him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

At times this commitment, this life of discipleship, is more difficult than other times. Faith is a personal and communal relationship with our Triune God, and just like our human relationships it requires attentiveness, and "[living] in love as Christ loved us." Just as a spouse or roommate can annoy us – being messy, hearing the same joke over and over, and don't get me started on who gets to control the remote! – we may get upset with God because our expectations are not met. But God is God, not "who we think God ought to be." Therefore, today's readings are an encouragement to remain steadfast when things are difficult, with St. Paul comparing the love of Jesus for the Church (all of us!) with the mutual love between a husband and wife. No one said it would be easy. Just as a good marriage requires communication, give-and-take, and large doses of forgiveness, so does our relationship with the Lord require prayer, confession, repentance, and thanksgiving.

ACTION Place Joshua's words on your refrigerator this week: "Decide today whom you will serve ... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Brainstorm about how each member of your household can do that.



*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

HOLY HOURS

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each month and
silent adoration
week 4.*

Prayers Needed

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Geri Beaugrand
Theresa Bertelsen
Rose Marie Carroll
David Clinchoc
Ed Cole
Mary Ellen Cooper
Victoria Cornwell
James Czech
Steven D'Arca
Joan DeDene
Catherine DeRose
Nick DiCresce
Julie Doty
Marie DuPont

Donald Emmerich
Susan Federoff
Louise Fetherolf
Taylor Fisher
Nora Anne Francis
Sylvia Gentile
Mary and Don Godfrey
Jane Gora
Larry Graham
Geoffrey Greve
James Gutowski
Rich Hanselman
Alleyn Hunt
Joan Ireland
James Kammer
Bruce Kaselitz

Marilyn Kiefer
Pat Kohlitz
Catherine Konen
Edward Krappmann
Al Kraska
Concetta Leone
Dotty Lubinski
Janet Malaski
Christopher Manning
Joan Mannino
Lee Majewski
Ed Marosso
Karen McMahon
Dee Misuraca
Mark Moffitt
Rosemary Monaghan

Jennie Mooney
Jessica Nehro
Toni Pantano
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Salvatore Promesso
Larry Rybicki
Sr. Alice Riegel
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Jennifer Rose
Victoria Rydholm
Doreen Saur
Alex Scapini
Terri Smigels
Kathleen Smith

Cathy Spindler
Robert Stasak
Virginia Stieber
Beverly Taylor
James Thompson
Maxine Uniewski
Audrey VanBecelaere
Eileen Wallace
Audrey Weekley
Marilyn Wicker
William Woodruff
Chuck Wolschlager

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@sjascs.org.

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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
August 22, 2021

Our Legacy of Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We all want to leave a legacy, to be remembered when we're gone. A legacy comes from faithfully and lovingly living your convictions. Joshua challenges the Israelites, making a definitive statement as their leader and head of his family: "We will serve the LORD." Notice that it isn't a question of if you will serve someone, but who you will serve.

The easiest way to find out who you are serving is to look where your heart, thoughts, and worries are. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Matthew 6:21).

Peter also had this hard choice placed to him, and he spoke up as the first pope, the head of a family of believers. When Jesus revealed the doctrine of the Eucharist, that it was truly his body and blood, many left him over this difficult saying.

Jesus asks the apostles if they want to leave, too. He could have said this was just a symbol—that those who left had misunderstood. But he doesn't change his teaching. He merely asks the apostles if they accept and believe him.

Peter's answer, like Joshua's, is a fundamental option. He finds in Jesus' words eternal life. There is nowhere else to go when you have tasted the goodness and truth of Jesus. As hard as some of those truths may be, for Peter there is no turning away. Following Jesus faithfully will lead him to lay down his life for Jesus, crucified upside down, and buried on Vatican Hill where you can visit his tomb today. How's that for a legacy?

The easiest way to find out who you are serving is to look where your heart, thoughts, and worries are.

A Word from Pope Francis

When someone is sick, we at times think: "Let's call for the priest to come"; "No, then he will bring bad luck. Let's not call him."...The idea is floating about that the undertakers arrive after the priest, and this is not true....It is Jesus himself who comes to relieve the sick person...and also to forgive his sins.

—General audience, February 26, 2014



Sunday Readings

Joshua 24:1–2a, 15–17, 18b

[Joshua said,] "Choose today whom you will serve....As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Ephesians 5:21–32 or 5:2a, 25–32

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her.

John 6:60–69

Simon Peter answered... "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What are my convictions, and what ideal do I love and live for?
- Will that ideal last in time and into eternity? There is still time to adjust.

What if We Used God's Gifts?

By Kathleen M. Basi

The summer after I graduated high school, I toured Europe with a music ensemble. One afternoon in the Italian countryside, we passed a tenement in the ditch beside the highway. It flashed by so quickly, I didn't have time to form a clear picture; I only have an impression of shelters constructed from cardboard boxes with sheets draped over them.

That image has haunted me ever since. Seeing such things in pictures doesn't quite pack the same emotional punch as being there in real life. I couldn't believe anybody actually lived like that, especially in the First World.

Many things in the world defy comprehension, particularly for those of us comfortably ensconced in temperature-controlled homes with two- (or three-) car garages and multiple televisions. Terror attacks, genocide, poverty, and war brutal enough to cause millions to flee their homelands are unfathomable. So is the crucifixion, actually.

That image of a body stretched upon intersecting beams is unfathomable for the opposite reason. Its familiarity lessens its impact. To me, the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help offers a different way to approach this pivotal event in salvation history. It depicts the Christ Child shrinking away from the cross, the nails, the lance, and the gulf and vinegar. Meanwhile, his Mother is



staring right at us while gesturing to her Son. I can just see in her eyes what she's thinking: "Look what he's done for you!"

Meditating on this image, I realize I may never be able to fully comprehend just what Jesus went through in order to win our salvation, any more than I can comprehend the desperation that leads parents to put their children in a cult in the middle of winter and cross the sea.

Yet comprehending isn't what matters most. The world is full of suffering, full of problems whose magnitude we will never understand, let alone figure out how to fix. And yet each of us is uniquely gifted, with a purpose in God's plan. Each of us

can toss a pebble and make a tiny ripple in that vast surface. One little throw might not make a difference, but if every Christian did the same, who knows what God might accomplish through us?

In the end, when I look at the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, that is what comes to mind. "Look what he's done for you," she seems to be saying. "Now, what are you going to do?" +

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help gives people a powerful way to look at the crucifixion.



Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

Help me believe and trust in the power of your Word.

—From *Fertile Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSwain

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 23–28

Monday, Weekday:

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10 / Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday, St. Bartholomew:

Rv 21:9b–14 / Jn 1:45–51

Wednesday, Weekday:

1 Thes 2:9–13 / Mt 23:27–32

Thursday, Weekday:

1 Thes 3:7–13 / Mt 24:42–51

Friday, St. Monica:

1 Thes 4:1–6 / Mt 25:1–13

Saturday, St. Augustine:

1 Thes 4:9–11 / Mt 25:14–30



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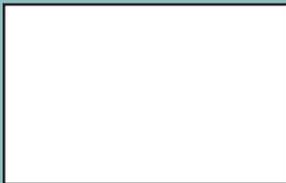


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