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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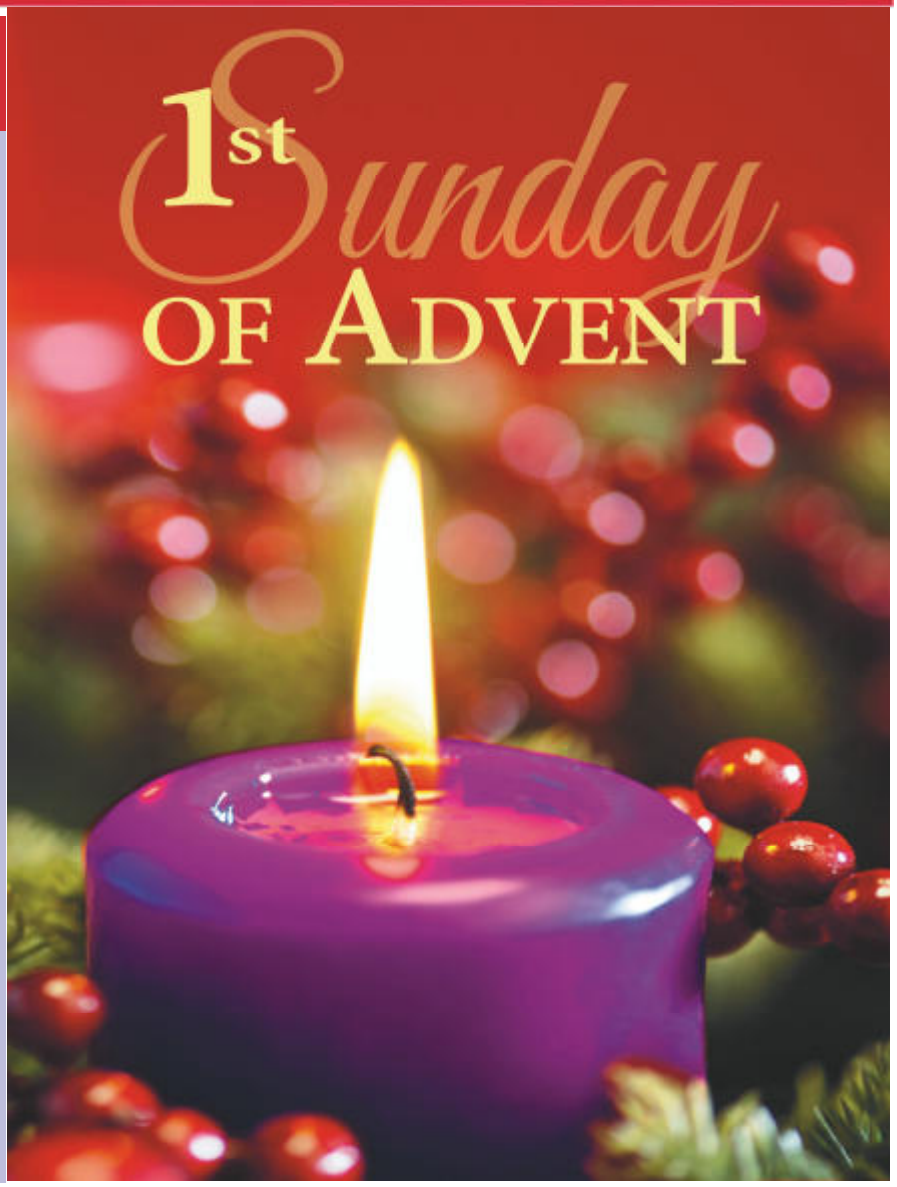

PARISH CENTER
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Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
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22415 Overlake
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Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

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

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

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Fax: 586-775-8374

Pastor
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gmbugarin@sjascs.org

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Exceptional Children
TBD

Youth Group
Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

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

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

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: **586-777-1342.**

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that 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: **586-777-3670.**

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, please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone

OR

By calling us at **586-777-3670** during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

Weekdays -7am Mass (Monday thru Friday)
Saturdays - 4pm & 6pm Masses
Sundays - 8am, 10am, 12pm Masses
Thursdays - 7pm Holy Hour

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

TALLer Tales

First Impressions and Ancient Monsignors: Around this time each year, I lead a couple of workshops on Protecting God's Children, Safe Environments, and Appropriate Boundaries in Ministry to the seminarians at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. This task falls on me because of my "AOD related job."

Given that I have been doing these workshops for many years, I know the drill. I usually get an email from the Vice-Rector or Dean about what room I will utilize so I'm ready to go when I arrive at Sacred Heart. I usually just arrive and do my thing. But this year was different as there was a new "sheriff" in town. More on him later.

One of our parishioners, Sharon Ozark, who is part of the AOD staff working with me at the Parish Center, handles all the coordination and communication with the staff at the Seminary for these three workshops. It gets complicated because I just don't show up with binders and things; I always … surprise, surprise … utilize every bit of technology I can. My technology requests for my presentations get rather complicated, so Sharon makes sure I have all the passwords and access I need. To complicate things a bit more this year, two of the deacon seminarians had to join us by Zoom.

The new "sheriff" in town, a young priest from the Diocese of Lansing, Father Pieter van Rooyen, the Director of Graduate Seminarians, is now in charge of these Formation Saturdays. He is responsible for making all the arrangements with the various presenters. Given my technology needs, now made more complex because I had two joining me by Zoom in the classroom, required Father Pieter to get more involved to make sure everything went off without a glitch.

As I approached Sacred Heart Major Seminary for my first workshop, I got a text from Father Pieter that he would meet me at the door and accompany me to my designated classroom. "WOW," I thought to myself. "This is pretty impressive. Someone is going to meet little ol' me at the door and walk me to my classroom!" Suddenly, I felt a bit important.

After parking my car, I gathered a banker's box containing my binders and handouts, as well as my briefcase. I also remembered last minute that we were required to wear masks at the Seminary out of precaution for the entire community. So, while balancing all of the stuff I had in my hands, I put on a mask. Right away, my glasses fogged up! UGH! I didn't have any of those mask nose strips that help alleviate the fogged-up glasses issues, nor did I have any of that anti-fog spray. I tried looking above the fogged-out area as I walked up to the Seminary's main entrance, but it wasn't working too well. I'm sure I looked like the absent-minded ancient Monsignor if anyone was watching me.

Once I got to the steps, Father van Rooyen was dutifully there to welcome me. If you've ever been to Sacred Heart Major Seminary, you know that once you get inside and ascend the few steps to the main floor, there is a large welcome/receptionist desk that prominently occupies the space. Given that my hands were full, I wanted to place the banker's box and my briefcase on the desk to greet Father van Rooyen. After all, I wanted to make a great first impression! WELL, as I went to place my things on the welcome desk, I, unfortunately, ran straight into the large plexiglass partition they had positioned in front of the desk! UGH! I couldn't even see it because my glasses were still somewhat fogged up. I was glad no one else was around to laugh at me! "Monsignor, here, let me help you," Father van Rooyen exclaimed. Now I was REALLY feeling like that ancient Monsignor. He helped me "recover" from hitting the plexiglass partition and took the banker's box out of my hands. It was clear I needed help!

We then walked down to my assigned classroom. Now the classrooms have a plexiglass partition around the instructor's podium. As I was setting up my stuff, I gracefully accomplished tipping over the entire plexiglass partition around the podium. Good heavens, I had no excuses this time as my glasses were no longer fogged up. Father van Rooyen came to my rescue AGAIN and quietly repositioned the fallen plexiglass partition without saying anything. I felt like a total fool. I'm sure Father van Rooyen was thinking, "And, we're letting this guy give a two-day workshop to our seminarians … maybe I should stay here and see if he can handle all of this by himself?" Some first impressions I made! But I guess this is what happens when you become an ancient Monsignor!

Advent Resources: Yikes! What happened to July? I can't believe we're already into the season of Advent! Even though the sights and sounds of Christmas are all around us, we still need to remember the beautiful and grace-filled season of Advent. Amid all the hustle and bustle, Advent calls us to embrace stillness and quiet as we prepare for the birth of Christ the King.

There are MANY things you can do to help your Advent journey. You can read the reflections in the Little Blue Book from the Diocese of Saginaw or the daily devotional *Word Among Us* (these are available at the Church entrances and the boxes outside). You could pick up a spiritual book. You could spend time before the Blessed Sacrament during adoration on Thursdays. You could get the Magnificat Advent Companion, download the Halo app, start listening to Fr. Mike Schmitz's *The Bible in a Year* daily podcast, or take a look at the offerings from FORMED.ORG. You could attend one of our reconciliation services. You could make it a goal to attend mass more frequently. You could make it a goal to pray as a family or pray by yourself each evening. Do something different during Advent to help you on your pilgrimage toward Christmas and beyond.

Given all of the available resources to help us on our Advent journey, we really have no excuses for not doing SOMETHING! The biggest challenge or hurdle we have is not being serious about sitting down and coming up with a game plan for Advent. The game plan should also be realistic, much like what we say about our Lenten practices so that we don't end up feeling like a complete failure when we don't carry through on every aspect of our plan and then stop doing everything. Don't let Advent just come and go as if it just "gets in the way" of Christmas! Come up with a game plan for Advent. Get your hearts ready for the birth of Christ. You'll be glad you did so!

Happy Advent. Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb
gmb@sjascs.org

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

November 28, 2021

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent.

WATCH

LEARN

ADVENT

This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

Your Advent journey will take on new meaning with Dr. Scott Hahn's illuminating presentation on the greatest gift ever given to mankind-Jesus Christ.

LISTEN

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

Misc. Announcements

Can Tab Recycling

We are back to recycling can tabs. All proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

How you can help: Spread the word! Let your family, friends, co-workers, and classmates know that their small pop tabs, food can tabs all can make a big difference for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Donations can be dropped off in the buckets at church, brought to the Parish Center during business hours.

8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

The Class of 2022 is now responsible for the can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their graduation events.

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..

Or you can arrange a pick-up by calling or texting Matt at 313-683-1972.

The Class of 2022

SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

Make all your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile!

You can use your current Amazon account and search for St. Joan of Arc.

Visit **smile.amazon.com** there are no additional fees and .5% of all sales will be donated back to our parish/school.

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Light of the Spirit Prayer Group

2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month

at

St Basil the Great
Community Room
22851 Lexington Avenue
Eastpointe, MI 48021

We pray the Rosary @ 6:30 pm, followed by a meeting at 7pm.

For those wanting individual prayers please be there between 6:30 – 6:55 pm

We hope that you can join us!

Dear Padre,

What do Advent-wreath candles signify?

Most Advent wreaths have three purple candles and one rose candle to echo the liturgical colors of the Church's Advent celebrations.

Whether the wreath is being used at home or in a church, the lighting of the candles should follow the liturgical colors of the Sundays of Advent. The vestments at Mass are purple during the first two weeks of Advent, so we light a purple candle on the first and second Sundays of Advent.

On the third Sunday, the Church celebrates *Gaudete* Sunday or Rejoice Sunday, named after the first word of the day's traditional entrance verse (Philippians 4:4–5). The priest wears rose vestments at Mass as a sign of our brightening hope and joy, and on the Advent wreath we light the rose candle to reflect the theme of the liturgy. The fourth Sunday of Advent sees the lighting of the last purple candle.

CNS PHOTO / LISA JOHNSTON, ST LOUIS REVIEW

Some churches and families add a fifth candle to their Advent practices by placing a white candle in the center of the wreath. They light this at Christmas, again echoing the Church's liturgical color for the season and rejoicing in Christ our Lord, whose birth brings light and life to our world.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord....God is not distant, he is always with us, to the extent that very often he knocks on the door to our heart.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Calendar

Monday
NOVEMBER 29
Advent Weekday
Is 2:1–5
Mt 8:5–11

Tuesday
NOVEMBER 30
St. Andrew, Apostle
Rom 10:9–18
Mt 4:18–22

Wednesday
DECEMBER 1
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6–10a
Mt 15:29–37

Thursday
DECEMBER 2
Advent Weekday
Is 26:1–6
Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday
DECEMBER 3
St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Is 29:17–24
Mt 9:27–31

Saturday
DECEMBER 4
Advent Weekday
Is 30:19–21, 23–26
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

Sunday
DECEMBER 5
Second Sunday of Advent
Bar 5:1–9
Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
Lk 3:1–6

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

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Liguori PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry

The reason for the season.

O Holy Night

Join us for a special holy night as we light up our church in an evening of adoration, worship and a nativity reflection with the children of our parish.

Thursday, December 16 at 7 pm followed by fellowship and a visit from St. Nicholas!

Contact Kristine Hass for information for children 5 and older interested in participating.

khass@sjascs.org

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, November 29th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, November 30th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Wednesday, December 1st

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, December 2nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, December 3rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, December 4th

11:00 am Reconciliation

12:30 pm Baptism of Gianna E. Peterson

1:30 pm Baptism of Lily C. Peeters

2:30 pm VanGorder Baptism

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, December 5th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Family Faith Formation Grades K-6

12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

November 28, 2021 – Wake Up!

We've reached the time of year where our energy levels are declining along with the amount of daily sunshine.

It's an annual thing for many folks. We have a harder time waking up in the morning, and, especially, staying awake into the evening because there's so little natural light.

For those of us getting a little older, perhaps, the phenomenon may be even more noticeable.

And throw in something like jetlag, as an example, and it can be particularly acute.

As embarrassing politically as the circumstance was a few weeks ago, how many people, for example, couldn't identify with the picture of the president dozing off during the opening comments at an international conference?

For the record, he probably told people he was just momentarily "resting his eyes."

The point is, is can be easy in the rush of life – and in the absence of regular sunshine – to become a little drowsy, a little slower on the uptake, a little less attentive to the things that really matter.

The good news is, this season of Advent is specifically intended to help shake us out of that stupor, and to remind us that the Lord is coming in this much-anticipated Christmas season.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap," Jesus tells his disciples in today's gospel passage from St. Luke.

"For that day will assault everyone who lives on the faith of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

Christmas is just four weeks away. Are we awake to the wonderful possibilities that await?

© 2021 Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday November 29, 2021 Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Mary A. Champine, Anthony Lombardi

Tuesday November 30, 2021 Saint Andrew, Apostle (Red)

7:00 a.m. Leonard Cichoraki and Bernard Reeb

Wednesday December 1, 2021 Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Steve Finn and the deceased Family & Friends of the Calisi Family who died in the month of December

Thursday December 2, 2021 Advent Weekday (Purple)

7:00 a.m. Anna Maria Dolunt

Friday December 3, 2021 Saint Francis Xavier, Priest (White)

7:00 a.m. Judith Zavela & Aldo Cardosi

Saturday December 4, 2021 Advent Weekday, Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Purple/White)

4:00 p.m. Fr. Arthur Oldani, Rebecca Penrod, Edward and Henry Blind, Bonnie Batche, the deceased members of the Walsh Family, Vincent Weingartz, Anna Maria Dolunt, Margaret Ferkovic, Dawn LaGrasso-Cichoski, Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, the J. Champine Family, the Zatyracz Family, and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc

6:00 p.m. Kevin Brys

Sunday December 5, 2021 Second Sunday of Advent (Purple)

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

10:00 a.m. Danuta Siwik

12:00 p.m. Robert Boesiger, Gerald Brennan, Bertha Condne, Irene Mack, Anna Maria Dolunt, Salvatore Ciaravino, and a Special Intention for Tracy and Jerry Rauch

Daily Readings

Monday, November 29

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, November 30

Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Wednesday, December 1

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 2

Isaiah 26:1-6
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 3

Isaiah 29:17-24
Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 4

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26
Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 5

Bar 5:1-9
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
Luke 3:1-6

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."

Amal Aranki
Frank Licata

"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."

Minnie Louise Haskins

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

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 reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.

Prepare for the King: Maybe in the minds of children, it's been Christmas since sometime about November 1st. Maybe you put up your tree before, or at, Thanksgiving. It's been Christmas in the stores since Halloween, and on TV, they are telling us "it's the most wonderful time of the year" all year round, no matter the season. In all this, have we left anything for Jesus?

Imagine if you were just told that 30 or 40 of your closest friends and family somehow got the idea that you are hosting Thanksgiving at your house this year… and by the way, they will all be arriving in fifteen minutes to celebrate this special day and they're coming ready to feast…. 40 people! Would you feel ready? Would you be able to show yourself to be a good host? Might someone leave disappointed at the end of the day and might you be embarrassed? You would, of course, want to be prepared. You'd want time to check everything is in order and your house is clean so you may present yourself well to your guests.

Years ago, I was frequently around at the house of some friends when their kids were very young. It was around the time that the first *Lion King* movies were released, so I saw those movies on TV a lot. I loved the song, *"Be Prepared,"* partly, I admit, because it was sung by British actor Jeremy Irons in his "bestest" British accent, and I thought I could imitate it pretty well. In the movie, the song is delivered by the evil lion, Scar, singing about his plot to kill his lion brother and take-over as king of the pride.

The theme is certainly menacing, but there are a good few lines in the song that should also speak to us as we begin Advent and a new Church year:

It's great that we'll soon be connected,
With a king who'll be all-time adored
Of course, quid pro quo, you're expected
To take certain duties on board.

This is why we must not simply end the month of November and run to Christmas. The whole season of Advent has a purpose to it—there are things we are expected, as Catholics, to do. One year I tried to get through the 4 Sundays in Advent without using the word "prepare" because it can sometimes sound like a cliché. But it's absolutely a "reason for the season." It's a chance to ready ourselves for the coming of the King, who we proclaimed last Sunday as *King of the Universe*. And if that's taken lightly or even ignored then we won't have the chance to comprehend what Christmas is about, beyond the gifts, feel-good songs on the radio and good food.

Advent is my favorite season in our Church year. I know people love Christmas music, but if you ask me, Advent has the best hymns! There is a building sense of anticipation of a great joy to come. Doesn't a planned vacation at the end of your work week give you something to look forward to? And doesn't it give you time to prepare – to buy sunscreen, to hold your mail, to clear out the fridge, to obtain currency, etc? It gives time for reflection on what needs attention to make the vacation a success and the return home smooth.

Advent is that time of not only passively waiting, but of actively reflecting – what in my life needs attention so that I might welcome Christ, the Savior into the world and into my life, my family, my home, my heart and not have reason to be embarrassed at what He will find there, i.e. our spiritual unreadiness due to a lack of preparation. There is probably something in our spiritual readiness for all of us to attend to. We have 4 weeks to reflect and work on this.

Maybe we could prepare for Sunday Mass better by looking over the readings early in the week, even as a family. Then when we hear them, we will be better immersed in their meaning, rather than the words. Maybe talk about them as a family. Perhaps you might check the formed.org website for the weekly reflection on the readings. Maybe it's been too long since you accepted God's free gift of mercy in the Sacrament of Confession. While there are a lot of opportunities for confession during Advent, why wait? It's good that people seek out confession at this time of year and at Lent, but let your focus be on the desire for God's mercy and forgiveness, rather than devotion to a calendar. Certainly, if it's been a while, Advent could be the beginning of a new "good habit" for you of making use of the sacrament year-round.

Maybe this advent you might schedule some time to attend some of the Advent activities in the parish, outside of Sunday Mass.

Attending to your own and your family's spiritual well-being is the most important preparation you will make over the next month, more important than any of the wonderful festivities you plan to attend. As enjoyable as they are, they will mean so much more if your true joy comes from knowing that you have prepared a place for the infant in your heart and you are truly honoring His glorious arrival at Christmas, when He is *ad venire (Latin = to come) into our world.* Happy Advent!

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew adawson@sjascs.org

St. Joan of Arc Giving Tree Project 2021

"Giving Tree" is a special charitable project designed to match the generosity of our parishioners with the needs of our community during the Christmas holiday. The project serves 100% local individuals who may otherwise not receive a gift at this special time of the year.

After a one-year pause due to the worldwide pandemic, St. Joan of Arc Parish is proud to continue this tradition of gift-giving. **Some things will be a bit different this year to accommodate social distancing and remote Mass attendance. But our commitment to the families and individuals helped by our Giving Tree project has not waivered.**

HOW IT WORKS:

1) **PURCHASE GIFT CARD(S):**
Buy plastic* gift card(s) valued from $15-30 (per card). You may purchase more than one, but please make sure limits fall within per-card limits $15-$30.
** tangible gift cards please, no electronic vouchers. Please make sure cards have been activated at the retailer that issued the card.*

STORES ACCEPTED: Meijer, Walmart, Target, and Amazon

WHERE TO BUY: At the named retailer, at most drug & grocery stores or online.

LET US PURCHASE THE GIFT CARDS FOR YOU: You may also donate this year via our online giving platform by going to givingtree.stjoan.church and indicating the amount you would like to donate. We will take care of the rest.

2) **PLACE GIFT CARD(s) IN AN ENVELOPE:**
Place the gift card(s) in an envelope. The envelope may include a Christmas greeting card, but this is not required. Mark on the envelope (directly or with a pasted note) "GIVING TREE" along with the quantity, store name, and value of the gift card(s).

3) **TAKE THE GIFT ENVELOPE(S) TO A DESIGNATED DROP SPOT:**
DEADLINE: December 5, 2021
Bring your marked envelope(s) to the Parish Center Office during office hours, or place it in the locked collection boxes in the Sr. Carol Center or the Parish Center Lobby.

WHAT HAS CHANGED FOR 2021:

Unlike past years where we accepted tangible gifts such as toys and clothing, the Giving Tree will accept only gift cards this year. This decision is to make it safer and easier for our parishioners to participate. It will also make the program more flexible for our charity agencies, who are also challenged with logistics and health protocols at this time.

St. Joan of Arc

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 5

Reading One – Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.
R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.
R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.
R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.
R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Reading Two – Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Alleluia – Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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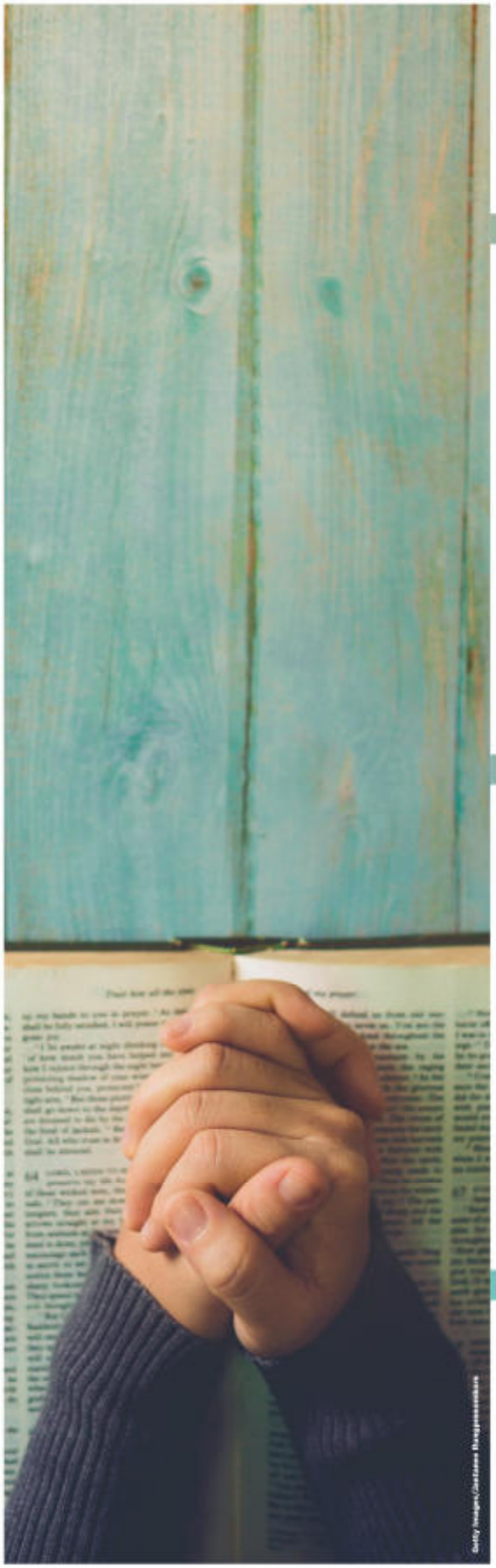


November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28,34-36

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

As the days grow shorter and darker, I am especially ready for Advent wreaths and nativity sets; sparkling lights and singing angels. More than ever, I eagerly anticipate the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. But today's readings for the first Sunday of Advent point us to the end of time, when Jesus returns in glory. Wait a minute, what? I don't want to think about the dismay and fright that Jesus foretells in the Gospel, I want to think about shepherds and holy nights. We really can't do one without the other, however, and the underlying message of the readings is one of hope and reassurance: Our God keeps his promises. He is faithful to the covenants he makes. He loves us so much; he offers us new beginnings. Our God became one of us, died to save us, and will give us the strength to be ready to greet him when he comes again. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand," Jesus says. Pray that our preparation for Christ's birth will make us all the more ready for his return.

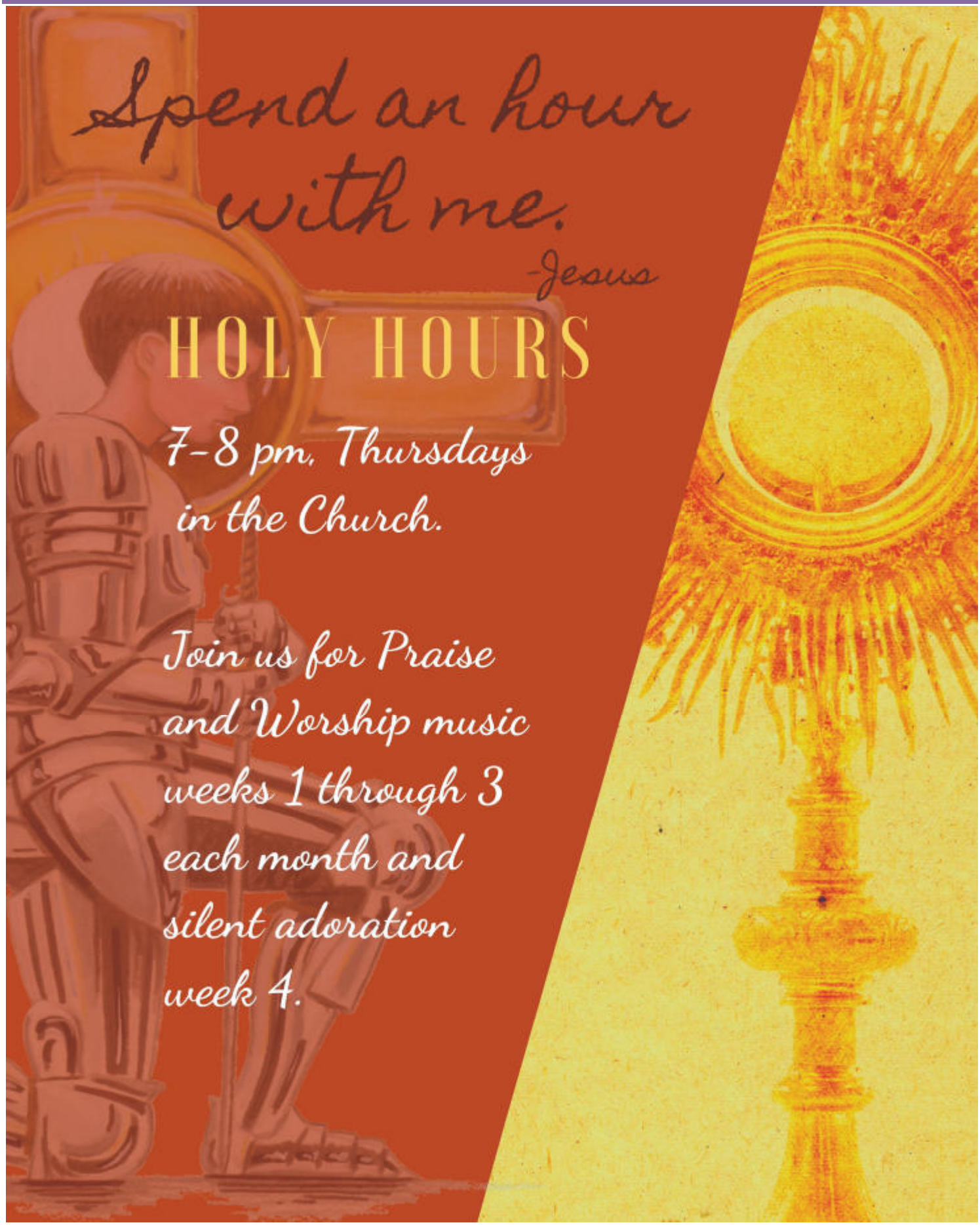
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We are a society and culture that focuses a lot on the outward signs of preparation, and there is a lot of pressure to make it all perfect. Pinterest boards, social media groups, magazine photos, clothing catalogs: all show perfectly dressed people with perfectly adorable dogs standing in front of exquisitely perfect Christmas trees, on perfectly unblemished snow. But perfection on the exterior is not the Christian goal. Our interior preparation – how we make ourselves ready for Christ now, and at the end of time – is the focus of Advent. It is an opportunity for repentance, and a joyful new beginning in our relationship with God. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the covenant he made with us, and the psalm and the second reading offer assistance in doing so. Make time each day to dive in and explore what Scripture reveals about "conducting yourselves to please God."

PRAY Pray the psalm from the first Sunday of Advent each morning. Ask God to open your heart to ways you can be more just. He will teach you, guide you, and strengthen your heart so that you can stand upright to face whatever challenges come your way.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.


Spend an hour with me.
-Jesus
HOLY HOURS
7-8 pm. Thursdays in the Church.
Join us for Praise and Worship music weeks 1 through 3 each month and silent adoration week 4.

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Sharon Adams
Geraldine Atkeson
Andrew Barth
Geri Beaugrand
Theresa Bertelsen
Lori Cardosi
Rose Marie Carroll
Alex Chapp
David Clinchoc
Ed Cole
Mary Ellen Cooper
Victoria Cornwell
James Czech
Steven D'Arca
David Damm
Joan DeDene
Lucy Dedene
Sharon Deller
Catherine DeRose
Nick DiCresce
Grace Dickerson
Julie Doty
Marie Durfee
Marie DuPont
Susan Federoff
Louise Fetherolf
Taylor Fisher
Nora Anne Francis
Sylvia Gentile
Pamela Gervasoni
Mary and Don Godfrey
Jane Gora
Larry Graham
Geoffrey Greve
James Gutowski
Rich Hanselman
Alleyn Hunt
Bruce Kaselitz
Marilyn Kiefer
Thomas Kler
Pat Kohlitz
Charlie Kolodziejski
Catherine Konen
Edward Krappmann
Al Kraska
Concetta Leone
Dotty Lubinski
Janet Malaski
Christopher Manning
Joan Mannino
Lee Majewski
Ed Marosso
Karen McMahon
Charlotte Miller
Dee Misuraca
Mark Moffitt
Jennie Mooney
Jim Moore
Jessica Nehro
Toni Pantano
Fern Pascany
Wayne Pepper
Gasper Piazza
Frank Poeschel
Salvatore Promesso
Tracy Rauch
Larry Rybicki
Sr. Alice Riegel
Suzanne Roland
Jennifer Rose
Victoria Rydholm
Doreen Saur
Alex Scapini
Ann Simmonds
Terri Smigels
Kathleen Smith
Cathy Spindler
Robert Stasak
Virginia Stieber
Beverly Taylor
James Thompson
Maxine Uniewski
Eileen Wallace
Audrey Weekley
Joseph Whalen
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

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Commander in Chief
Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Air Force
Dan Adams
Charles Bartlett
James A. Brannigan
Robert C. Carden
Kevin Conley
Maria Marable
Hector M. Martinez
Jacob Milatz
R. Connor Montgomery
Martin Rodriguez
Dave Russell

Army
Tom Barrett
Samuel Baur
Richard Brown
Nathan Dickerson
Greg DeMoss
Brian C. Ellis
Thaddeus Kapuscinski
Joseph R. Kozlinski
Michelle Kuznia, DDS
Greg Lietz
Chris Listilla
Daniel Meagher
Kyle Richardson
Christopher Scholz
John C. Tramazzo
Dan Travis
Joseph VanDusen
David Weise
Edward Williams
Samantha Williams
Timothy L. Wilt III

Marine Corps
Daniel Allen
Arthur J. Barron
David Chute
Kyle Cichowski
John DuBay Jr.
David J. Kennedy
Daniel Klein
Paul Koss
Matthew Krugler
Jeffrey LaTour
John Lewins
Justin Lienemann
Nick Lienemann
Michael Light
David Light
Ryan McCarthy
Lee Michael
Thomas Reichling
Frank Schuster
Daniel Sparkman
Tom Stevenson
Christopher Venditti

Navy
Daniel Bahr
Brody J. Fitzgerald
Jason Gaidis
Joseph Goeddeke
Fr. John Kaul
Frankie Kocis
Joseph Marable
Tom Miller, Jr
Anthony M. Morgan
John Patterson
Andrew Seator

Coast Guard
Michael Franklin
Judy Knox
Christopher Rogers
Norma Ray Smihal
Nan Wise

National Guard
Robert Douglas III
William DuBay

Bringing Home the Word

First Sunday of Advent (C)
November 28, 2021

God's Promise of Real Treasure

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

If anyone can keep a promise, it's God. His very nature is to be faithful to his promises and to fulfill all he has foretold. His promise after the fall of Adam and Eve was to send us a Redeemer, to bring peace to Jerusalem, and to reestablish his reign on earth. The prophets continually reminded the chosen race of God's fidelity and, although things looked far from their fulfillment, they insisted that God is faithful and would deliver.

Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of God's promise, comes in two phases. First, by coming as a baby in Bethlehem. This Incarnation and his arrival as Savior is what we're preparing to receive this Advent. Extra prayers, generous giving of your time, and special sacrifices are the best way to ready your soul for his coming.

Jesus' Second Coming will bring to completion what he started on the cross. His glorious return, which all of creation will foretell in those last days, is when the full effects of Christ's victory on the cross will be seen at the judgment of all living creatures.

The advice for all Christians in this period of waiting and preparation is to keep watch; to not allow the delay to lead us to drowsiness. Don't let the vanities of this world dazzle us, for in time, they will become dust.

God promises real treasures that will endure forever and, as we know, God keeps his promises.

Extra prayers, generous giving of your time, and special sacrifices are the best way to ready your soul for Christ.

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 33:14–16

In those days, at that time, I will make a just shoot spring up for David.

1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.

Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

[Jesus said,] "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life."

A Word from Pope Francis

Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal, to lead it to its fullness, which is the Lord....God is not distant, he is always with us, to the extent that very often he knocks on the door to our heart.

— First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Am I preparing my soul for Christ's coming by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?
- Have I settled on which concrete acts I will do?

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Put People First

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

We had cleaned and waxed the floor in our church hall. It looked great! Then at a parish celebration soon thereafter, as chairs and tables were being dragged across the floor, I caught myself worrying more about scratches and scuff marks than whether people were enjoying themselves. I'm sometimes guilty of putting things before people. Maybe all of us do this sometimes.

Later, sometime after the party at the hall, I reread St. Paul VI's encyclical of March 26, 1967, On the Development of Peoples (*Populorum Progressio*). In economic development, people first. With technological advances, people first. In political activities, people first. As we address the complexity of the world's problems, people first. You get the idea. Human progress happens and can be measured to the extent that national and world resources serve people and their needs. There is a resounding refrain throughout St. Paul VI's encyclical: Put people first.

What happens when we don't put people first is clear. Human dignity can be diminished, trampled on, and obliterated. The gap between rich and poor can swallow up the jobless, the homeless, and the friendless. *Populorum Progressio* sharply reminds us that if the poor don't progress, no one does. Development—whether social, economic, educational, or any other kind—isn't progress at all if it fails to meet the needs of the weakest and most vulnerable.

St. Paul VI (1897–1978), who led the Church as Pope from 1963 until his death, wrote, "This struggle toward a more human way of life certainly calls for hard work and imposes difficult sacrifices. But even adversity, when endured for the sake of one's brothers and out of love for them, can contribute greatly to human progress" (*PP* 79). "We must travel this road together....Can countless innocent children be saved? Can countless destitute families obtain more human living conditions? Every individual and every nation must face up to this issue, for it is their problem!" (*PP* 80).

Think about how our nation measures progress. We can't merely repeal the Affordable Care Act. It must be replaced, or 20 million people will lose their insurance benefits. Immigration reform can't just be about building a wall. It must be about building thousands of strong families and keeping them together. Decisions to stop sending American jobs abroad must go hand in hand with making goods and services affordable at home while providing healthy wages and at the same time helping poorer nations develop.

Read *Populorum Progressio*. It helps to be reminded to put people first. Maybe you worry about the scuff marks like I do and forget about the people at the party. Progress starts small. Hold the door for someone; let another go first. Buy a homeless person lunch; you'll both enjoy it. Stop work for a minute and call your family. That's progress. People first!

What happens when we don't put people first is clear. Human dignity can be diminished, trampled on, and obliterated.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to slow down and become more aware of my rushing aimlessly from place to place. Quiet my mind and steady my heart that I may live in your presence throughout the day.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 29–December 4

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Is 2:1–5 / Mt 8:5–11

Tuesday, St. Andrew:
Rom 10:9–18 / Mt 4:18–22

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 25:6, 10a / Mt 15:29, 37

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Is 26:1–6 / Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday, St. Francis Xavier:
Is 29:17–24 / Mt 9:27–31

Saturday, Advent Weekday:
Is 30:19, 21, 23, 26 / Mt 9:35, 10:1, 5a, 6, 8

Bringing Home the Word
November 28, 2021

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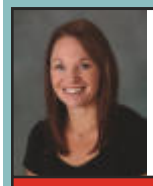
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