



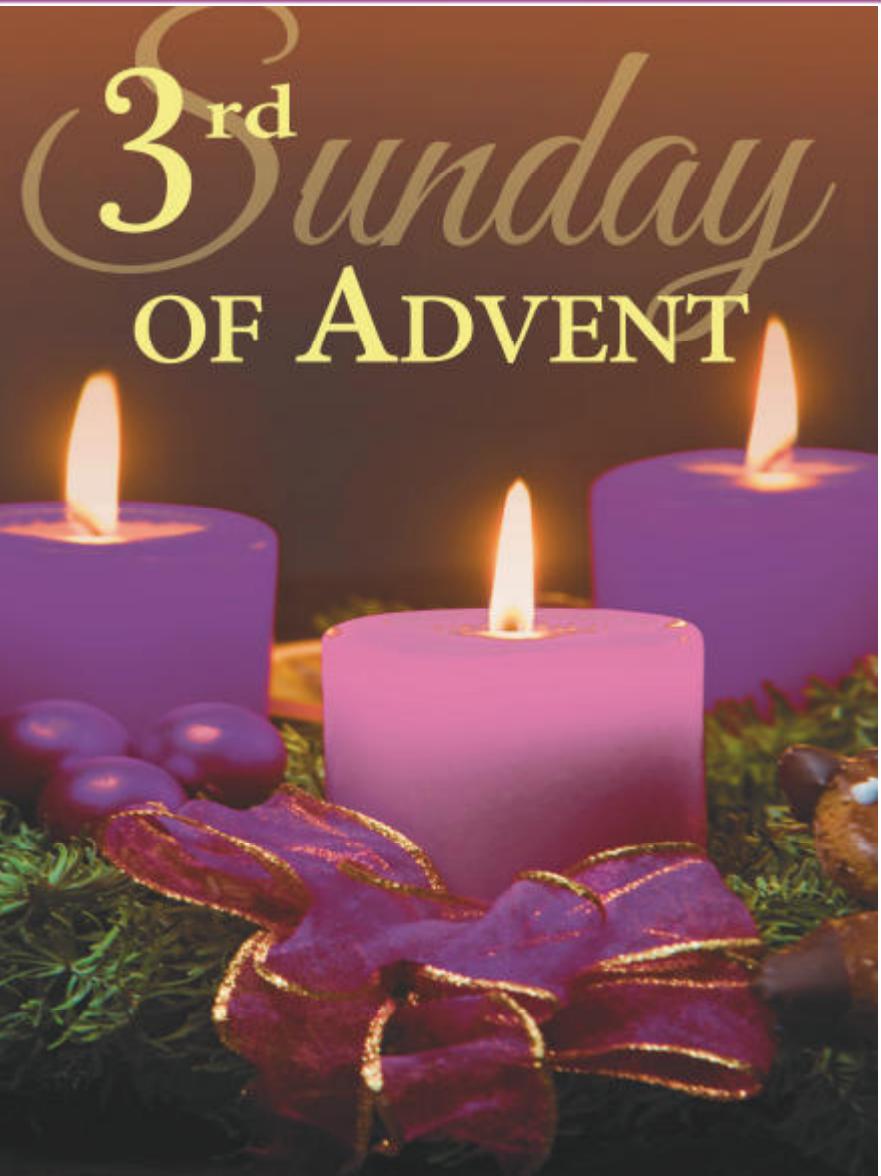
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

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

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: repolice@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@sjasc.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjasc.org

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjasc.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Office of Faith &

Family Formation
Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjasc.org

Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Exceptional Children

TBD

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjasc.org

Music Director

Catherine Thomas
cthomas@sjasc.org

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net



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**

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).

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.



Momma's Always Right:

I'm sure there is something in chapter 200 of the Child/Parent "Handbook of Life" that you shouldn't debate with your mom

over something you are not qualified to debate about. Disqualifying you from the topic of discussion could be over something you are not an expert on, or maybe, just maybe, you have no way of verifying the information about the topic you find yourself debating about ... especially when the discussion is with your mom! As I think about it, I'm sure the first rule, probably the first sentence of Chapter One of the "Child/Parent Handbook of Life" is Momma's Always Right!

I have to set up the context of this story. First, my mom got pretty ill last week, and we had to take her to ER. She had severe headaches and some infection that was causing havoc on her body (she's doing better thanks be to God). I heard how crazy the ERs have become, but I got to experience it first-hand last week.

My mom is staying with my sister and family in Allentown, about an hour from here, while her condo is being renovated. Initially, my mom was going to go to Troy Beaumont's ER, but they had a six to seven-hour wait that night. So, we decided to run over to Grosse Pointe Beaumont even though they had a two to three-hour wait. My sister Cindy drove my mom down to our meeting point at Bob Evans on I-94 and Hall Road, and I then took her down to Grosse Pointe. When we arrived at Grosse Pointe, it was so chaotic! Ambulances were coming and going, and people just kept pouring into the ER doors. I've never seen a scene like the one I saw that night, and I'm in and out of hospitals a lot. With all the chaos there and after getting a tip from Dina at the Parish Center, we decided to head over to Henry Ford Cottage's ER. We got great care over there, and she was able to get some diagnostic tests right away to determine the cause of the infection and illness. We finally got out of there at 1:30 in the morning. I couldn't see driving for an hour to my sister's house and then another hour to come back home. So, we decided to land at my house. Having my mom at my home recuperating has proven to be a Godsend because my sister Jackie and I and a few others could easily watch over her since she would be literally next door.

It was also good to have her here from the perspective that we weren't sure yet if she would have to go back to ER again if she continued to be so dehydrated. This way, we wouldn't be traveling so far to go back and forth.

Now, my house is a bit small, perfect for a single person, but small based on today's standards. God bless Mr. and Mrs. Goodin for raising three children in that house! Since I wasn't anticipating visitors at 2 a.m., I had to do a mad dash to straighten parts of my house, especially my spare bedroom. This is when you start throwing things in boxes and toss them into a closet! I was hoping my mom didn't see the mess in her weakened and tired condition! We then quickly got settled in our rooms and called it a night.

It turns out I proved not to be the best Caregiver on Duty that night. The following morning, my mom said she tried calling out to me a couple of times during the night when she needed help, but I never responded! YIKES. Did I feel bad! I wasn't even 30 feet from her; I was so tired that I didn't hear ANYTHING! Right away, I started to concoct a better solution to hear her in the middle of the night using my Alexa devices I have all over the house. That was bad enough, and there was no debating her at all that I didn't respond! I was dead tired and totally out of it that night and morning.

But then my mom said, "Boy, I didn't really know you snored that much!" "SNORE; I don't snore," I thought to myself with a crinkled-up forehead. I was still trying to process the failed Caregiver on Duty job when I got hit with the fact I supposedly snored (loud enough for her to hear over her CPAP machine, I might add). I was stunned into silence. Amid the silence, my mom added, "Your sisters would mention your snoring when we were on vacation, but I never added to the conversation because I never heard it. But now I know!" "WHAT ... I don't snore," I continued to think to myself. I finally said (somewhat sheepishly knowing that I would never win this debate), "But I don't snore!" I then got the "Mom Look" with that crinkled-up forehead that told me there was no debating this topic. I was going to lose no matter what I thought! And, rightly so. How would I know if I snored? I'm usually asleep ... and obviously REALLY asleep that night! I could then hear this little voice inside me say, "Give it up, Michael. Momma's ALWAYS right!" I don't know; maybe I should record myself one night? "Give it up, Michael.

Momma's ALWAYS right!"

Advent Reconciliation Services: The SERF Vicariate Parishes have decided to have some common opportunities for reconciliation this Advent. Each parish has set aside Monday, December 13, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. and then on Tuesday, December 14, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. for reconciliation. Father Andrew and I will be available for reconciliation during these times in one of the conference rooms in the Sr. Carol Center. Chairs will be set up in the Gathering Place and will serve as a "line" for confession; you'll be getting some exercise moving from one chair to another as the line moves. If you wanted to wait for a specific confessor, you could do so.

You would be amazed how many times I welcome people back who haven't celebrated the sacrament in years or even decades. Don't be afraid if you're one of these people and are worried about going to confession. Tell the confessor it's been a while since you've gone to confession; he will walk you through the ritual. Don't worry if you can't remember the *Act of Contrition*; we have cards in the confessional with the prayers. Your act of contrition could be as simple as: "Lord Jesus, Son of God have mercy on me, a sinner."

Another excuse I often hear about why people don't go to confession is: "Father, you don't have the time to hear all that I need to confess." Nice try, we'll make the time! Another excuse: "Father, I wouldn't have the time to do the penance you would give me. By the way, what kinds of penances do they give out these days?" The penances given out these days are often in the form of a prayer or some act of kindness. It's not difficult, people! I encourage you to give it a try.

Advent Pause: As we enter into these waning days and hours of Advent and the pace of life gets rather hectic with the final preparations for Christmas, please remember to keep your priorities ever in mind. It's all too easy to lose sight of what's essential as we try to accomplish sometimes an unquestionable amount of activity. So as we prepare for the birthday of the Savior, may we keep Him ever before our eyes.

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb

gmb@sjasc.org



PICK OF THE WEEK

December 12, 2021

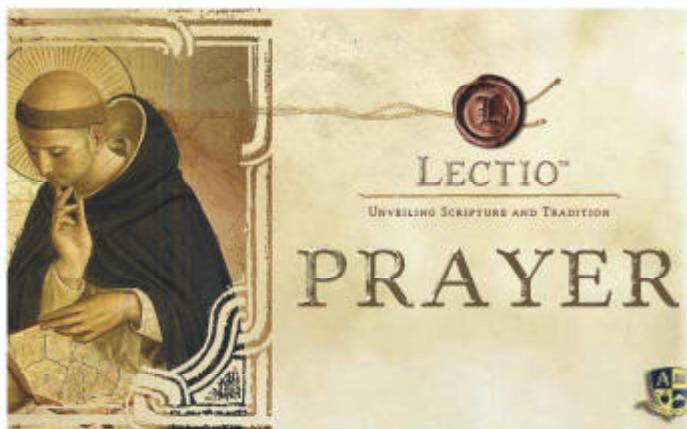
WATCH

**SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA:
A STUDY IN PERSEVERANCE**

Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.



LEARN

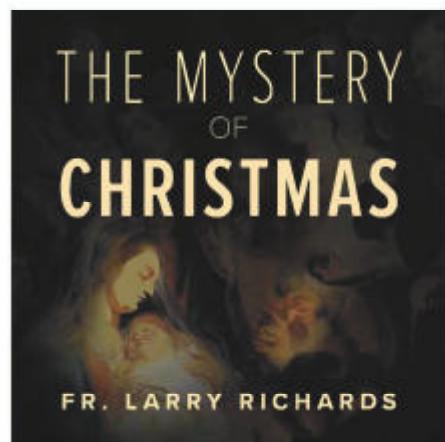
**LECTIO: PRAYER—AN INTIMATE
DIALOGUE**

St. John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church, had a deep desire to help others grow in prayer. In honor of this mystical saint, join Dr. Gray as he dives into the simplicity and mystery of prayer.

LISTEN

**THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS
BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS**

In this talk, Fr. Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift—the gift of his Son to the world.



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.



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!

Community Announcements

St. Joan of Arc Pilgrimage

June 17-26, 2022

Stay in Monasteries while visiting St. Joan's 'Deep France'

God willing, next June we will again lead a St. Joan of Arc pilgrimage/retreat to France. This will be our thirteenth opportunity for taking a group on this fascinating journey. Our travel philosophy remains the same - one of going back to the essentials, of simplicity, of quality time in some places instead of 'rush-rush' in many. Although we will indeed see and do much, we hope to travel first of all as spiritual travelers, rather than as consumers. Consequently, we will again purposely remain a small group. Each day we will gather for some combination of the following: prayer/meditation, information on activities of the day, addressing questions, *Question du Jour* discussions. Come and experience many of the places where St. Joan lived, visited, and prayed.

Sites will include: Orléans, Troyes, Domrémy-la-Pucelle, Vaucouleurs, and Reims, with quiet stays at monasteries in the heart of France. Please visit our website, with more information and photos: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com.

For any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or email:

Chris & Catherine Snidow
Phone: (214) 327-4579
Email: cowlind@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.pilgrimwitnesses.com

St. Joan of Arc parishioner:
Darryl Bryk
Email: brykd@hotmail.com



St. Joan of Arc

Online Giving

Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

Download the Online Giving app today at OLGApp.com

Donations

Payments

Give online at stjoan.church or from the app

REGISTER THE APP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION ID: 4719

DOWNLOAD APP ON Google play

Download on the App Store

Celebration of Winter Solstice



All are invited to welcome the season of winter with a ritual, *Winter Solstice: A Sacred Time*. The virtual celebration, facilitated by Sister Esther Kennedy, OP, is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. EST Sunday, December 19, 2021.

The celebration includes reflections on our turning from darkness to light as the days begin to grow longer, and from the past to this new moment. We will cultivate our own capacity as beings of light to shine our light and love as fully as possible upon one another and our world.

A Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan, Sister Esther is a retreat leader and spiritual director who conducts a monthly Day of Mindfulness at Weber Center.

The celebration is free and open to all. Registration is not required. To participate, join the live stream at <https://webercenter.org/seasons>.

For information, call the Weber Center at 517-266-4000.

Crossroads Soup Kitchen News

We were blessed to serve about 300 people on Sunday October 3rd. There was enough food left over to serve lunches for the following week. We also had bags of toiletries made up for 300+ people.

I want to thank everyone for their monetary donations. I want to thank St Vincent De Paul for their donations. I also want to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare and serve the meals.

We could not have done this without our wonderful St Joan family. I can not thank each and everyone of you enough.

May God bless you abundantly.

St Joan's Crossroads Team.



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@sjasc.org

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, December 13th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, December 14th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm School Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 15th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, December 16th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour Nativity Play - Live Streamed

Friday, December 17

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, December 18th

11:00 am Reconciliation

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, December 19th

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

December 12, 2021 – What, Me Worry?

As we continue through the pre-Christmas season of holiday gatherings and celebrations – Covid precautions notwithstanding – many people are surely fighting the annual battle of the bulge. That's the ritual during which we try to enjoy the avalanche of sweets and high-fat foods that tempt us at every turn ... and still somehow not tip the scales when we finally weigh in.

It was interesting, then, when one media source reported a few weeks ago that the majority of people responding to a survey admitted they not only will gain weight but expect to add somewhere on the order of eight pounds between now and the new year.

And that, according to the story, is on top of the weight many folks gained during the pandemic.

Even more interesting though, was this little nugget:

“In fact, 90 percent (of survey respondents) plan on enjoying the holiday season without worrying about maintaining a health diet,” the story said. “That may be due to stress from the pandemic, which is prompting two in three people to feel they ‘deserve’ more treats this year.”

The intent in bringing this up is not to render a verdict on people’s diet choices, but rather to pull out a helpful observation: perhaps there is something to be said for allowing oneself to “live a little,” and not be overly concerned, in the short term, with dieting.

After all, as St. Paul urges in today’s second reading, “Rejoice!

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Christmas is just two weeks away. Are we caught up in anxiety, or settling into a sense of peace?

Food for thought.

2021 Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday	December 13, 2021 Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Red)
7:00 a.m.	George & Lorraine McCabe and a Special Intention for the Dinser Family
Tuesday	December 14, 2021 Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church (White)
7:00 a.m.	Aniello Mazzello and Keith Ketelhut
Wednesday December 15, 2021 Advent Weekday (Purple)	
7:00 a.m.	Dorothy Guiglaro & Anna Maria Dolunt
Thursday December 16, 2021 Advent Weekday (Purple)	
7:00 a.m.	Don Ancypa
Friday	December 17, 2021 Late Advent Weekday (Purple)
7:00 a.m.	Steve Terleski & Joseph Semany
Saturday	December 18, 2021 Late Advent Weekday (Purple)
4:00 p.m.	Audrey Benedis, Suzanna & Victor Markowsky, Gerald Valeck, Dennis Fleming, Joe Komaroff, Mary & Frank Fleming, Edward & Henry Blind, the deceased members of the Walsh Family, Bonnie Batche, George VanBecelaere, Anna Maria Dolunt, Paul L. & Jean Daudlin, Sam & Grace Valenti, Anthony Thomas, Geri Deutschel, Charles L. Miller, William Scanlan, Fred Andary, Jack Jacob and Special Intentions for Mike Kady, the Thomas Family and the J. Champine Family.
6:00 p.m.	Helen Balton
Sunday	December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Purple)
8:00 a.m.	For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 a.m.	Kevin Collins
12:00 p.m.	Charles & Margaret Forrester, Michael Forrester, James Forrester, Esmenia Salomon Silva, Victor Hage, Anna Maria Dolunt, Joseph J. Abdella, Kitty Podsiadly,

Daily Readings

Monday, December 13	Friday, December 17
Numbers 24:2-7 Matthew 21:23-27	Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Matthew 1:1-17
Tuesday, December 14	Saturday, December 18
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Matthew 21:28-32	Jeremiah 23:5-8 Matthew 1:1-17
Wednesday, December 15	Sunday, December 19
Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Luke 7:18b-23	Micah 5:1-4a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45
Thursday, December 16	
Isaiah 54:1-10 Luke 7:24-30	



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.”

**Catherine Flynn (the Sister of Fr. Tom Flynn)
Katherine (Kitty) Podsiadly
Brian Trupp**



“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



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.

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



First Light:

I've always enjoyed camping. There's something about going back to basics, having to use shoe laces to tie your tent to a tree because you left the poles at home, cooking pancakes on a rock because you forgot the pan, discovering that you *can* fall asleep with a tree root pressed into your back. And I've always been struck by those moments when the first morning light becomes evident. On the horizon there's a glimmer of the sun that has not yet risen, and a promise of a new day that has yet to begin. The dark night of the forest is about to be forced aside by the light of a new day.

These images are reflected in today's rose-colored advent candle. Gaudete Sunday calls us to reflect on St. Paul's exhortation in the second reading, "Rejoice always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" Poking through the darkness of the world, through the penitential aspects of Advent, and the ways the season has been calling for us to keep watch and prepare ourselves, is now this light, a brighter color, a sign of the great joy that is coming into our lives, becoming visible on the horizon. That joy is Christ the King, who is "already, but not yet." He is the Son who has already Risen, the one who is here with us, but on whom we still wait with great hope and anticipation to be born on Christmas. We wait to experience Him born anew for us, that we might rekindle the sense of joy we ought to have as God continues to love us.

God is intent on rescuing the world from evil and violence, at the cost of the wicked, in order that His love will be seen. He wants to create a world in which everyone can flourish in safety and peace. And at this prospect, prophesied by Zephaniah, in today's first reading, the people of Jerusalem should be joyful, as God is joyful, because He is coming to rescue them. He is in their midst, a mighty Savior and He will rejoice over them.

Did you ever think about that?... that the Lord rejoices over you. Our God, who is love, wanted to express that love. It's the ultimate in divine self-expression. God's love couldn't be kept hidden – He expressed it – it overflowed into creation, and we are His masterpiece. No matter how broken and wounded you might consider yourself, He loves you and finds joy in your existence.

Rejoice always in the Lord! He rejoices in you. You are the expression of His great joy, bubbling over into creation. We know how the Christian story unfolds, from birth to death to resurrection.

This is Advent and we await Christmas, but, in some sense, it is also an Easter moment because we can see now that the Savior is coming close and soon He will be here, an infant, born of Mary and the Holy Spirit, coming to rescue us. A new day is coming, and the darkness will be forced aside.

Last Sight: It's hard to believe we're already half-way through Advent, partly for me because I was gone most of November. The first week in December was my scheduled annual retreat, which was really a blessing as it was a week of silence, and a chance to try to recover my voice that had abandoned me by the 1st Sunday in Advent.

Though not quite what I would call camping, I was staying in a little cabin on the edge of the woods—a beautiful setting down a dirt road. The cabin is owned by an order of religious sisters, who provide it as a place for priests to come for retreat. I love watching for the deer that come out of the woods there. They most frequently show themselves around 5pm as the light is fading. There can be as many as ten at a time, but, for sure, if you see one, keep looking because there's sure to be a least one more in close proximity. They will come right up to the cabin at times and there's a big picture-window that means I can spot them from inside, often without them seeing me

because of the reflection from the outside.

There are plenty of other critters and birds of prey to watch for too, and I admit I did keep jumping out of bed at night whenever the security light came on outside because I wanted to see what had showed-up this time... even if there was nothing more exciting than a possum.

Partway through the week, I looked out to see these two preening each other. I stood-up to get a better look and unfortunately caught their attention. They looked-up at me for just a couple of seconds before turning their backs and walking away. But I was able to get this picture.



But I'm always looking for the perfect photo and I wasn't very pleased that I was taking photos through a pretty dirty window. So I found some Windex and went out to clean the window in anticipation of my next deer sighting and a better photo.

And of course.... that was it. Very unusual, but for the last two days, watching through this nice clean glass... how many deer showed-up? Precisely none! I guess I know now that deer do not really like having to look at my mug! But at least I left the cabin with cleaner windows than I found it with.

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew

Adawson@sjasc.org

If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.
1 John 1:9

Advent Reconciliation Opportunities at St. Joan of Arc

Monday, December 13, 6-8 pm

Tuesday, December 14, 2-4 pm

in addition to our weekly Saturday morning at 11 am Reconciliation



All women are invited to join us for our next

**Walking with Purpose
Women's Bible Study**

Beginning Monday

January 11

Two Sessions available - at 10 am and 7 pm

Join us in the Sr. Carol Center for a coffee cup and learn about the fruits of this beautiful weekly Catholic Bible Study written especially for women. All women are welcomed and invited to bring a friend. Each group is doing a different study. Feel free to drop in on the first session - there's always an open seat. No experience necessary!

Visit sjacs.org/walking-with-purpose for more information about this group and study.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 19

Reading One – Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Responsorial Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading Two – Heb 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Alleluia – Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."



December 12, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

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

Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

ACTIONS Remember the last time you felt unadulterated joy? For me it was when my son smacked a game-winning goal at a hockey game. As we move through Advent, we can reawaken a sense of childlike joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ among us. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.

Photo by iStockphoto.com/ValentynVolkov

Dear Padre,

I recently moved to a parish that includes a large Mexican community that's known for their annual *posadas* event. What is that?

Las *posadas*, a nine-day novena preparation for the celebration of Christmas, begins December 16 and ends Christmas Eve.

Posada is Spanish for "inn." The ceremony remembers Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding a place to stay. *Posadas* are celebrated in many ways, but the traditional celebration involves a group of people, the "pilgrims," going to several houses, knocking on the door, and asking for *posada*. The pilgrims sing the part of Joseph as he explains their situation and asks for a place to stay. The people inside sing back that they have no room and that the pilgrims should just move on.

On the last night, the people in the last house recognize that Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that the child she carries is the Savior of the World. They invite the pilgrims inside and hold a prayer service that may include a Scripture reading or the rosary. The celebration ends with food and singing.

This tradition is more than a folksy reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging—it's a solemn dramatization by women and men who believe God searches with them, a touching ceremony that can help Christians today see the real needs of those who live without the security of a home, health insurance, or a steady job.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



CNA PHOTO/NANCY WEDDING

A WORD FROM Pope Francis



Many Christians have that face...from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"

GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

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Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 13
St. Lucy,
Virgin and Martyr
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

DECEMBER 14
St. John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

DECEMBER 15
Advent Weekday
Is 45:6b-8, 18,
21c-25
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday

DECEMBER 16
Advent Weekday

Is 54:1-10
Lk 7:24-30

Friday

DECEMBER 17
Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10
Mt 1:1-17

Saturday

DECEMBER 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

Sunday

DECEMBER 19
Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

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Bringing Home the Word +

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

December 12, 2021

Fear and Intimacy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The bronze sculpture in the Vatican Museum by Francesco Messina, *The Young St. John the Baptist*, shows him pointing as if responding to a question or pointing the way. There was anxious anticipation amongst the Jews about the coming Messiah. Yet, we have no reason for anxiety.

Anxiety comes from fear of the unknown. When we're unsure of how things will turn out, we get anxious. When we lack control or can't plan for our security, we get anxious.

Fear and anxiety are the enemies of intimacy and love. Fear makes us run

far enough away so we feel removed from danger, safe from the aggressor. Or it drives us to hold someone, seeking strength in attachment. But fear doesn't create space for true intimacy. It either creates excessive distance or suffocating closeness.

John didn't want to create fear or caution of God. Rather, he wanted to open hearts to receive God in love. Ours is not a God of fear, but of love.

In Jesus' Incarnation, he shows just how much he wants to be with us. He comes to make his home among us, while waiting for us to accept him and make room for him. He doesn't force but comes with patience and love.

Knowing that he loves and wants the best for us, we merely need to make ourselves known to him by revealing our deepest needs to him with prayer.

John the Baptist came to prepare the path for the Messiah, and many responded by asking, "What should we do to prepare?" Put aside anxiety and fear, simply prepare a home for him, and then let him in. +

John didn't want to create fear or caution of God. Rather, he wanted to open hearts to receive God in love.

A Word from Pope Francis

Mary Christians have that face...from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"

Cadode Sunday, December 13, 2020



Sunday Readings

Zephaniah 3:14–18a

The LORD, your God, is in your midst... Who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.

Philippians 4:4–7

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Luke 3:10–18

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What causes me fear or anxiety?
- Can I give my anxiety to Jesus and ask him to bring me a greater sense of peace this Christmas?

The Days Hasten On

By Kathleen M. Basí

I'm not a fan of archaic language in religion—*thine* and *thou*, *ye* and *art*. So, my first Christmas as a liturgy director, when I really examined the words to all those beloved Christmas carols I'd been singing my whole life, I was appalled to realize how much work it took to understand them.

That is, until Unitarian Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears' exquisite text to "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" turned my world upside down.

Christmas carols, at least the first verse or two, are so familiar that we often rattle off the words without really thinking about what we're singing. This carol from 1849 reflects the song of peace on earth that the angels sang the night of Christ's birth. It asks us to consider that the heavenly song, far from being a message for that one time and place, has been sung continuously while "two thousand years of wrong" have passed. And yet...

*...man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring.*

Every day, people and the headlines prove that "warring humankind" rages on, piling violence upon violence: wars, police brutality, human trafficking, terrorism, hate speech, graphically violent entertainment, 140-character assaults on human dignity.

We may consider ourselves outside the problem, but we're all susceptible to clickbait, and we most likely consume



the violence and sex that Hollywood doles out without question. We probably have been guilty of belittling strangers via social media, or at least in private among our family and friends, despite knowing how it feels to be on the other side. Humanity is every bit as broken as it was when that holy infant was born in a stable to teach us to pursue a kingdom built on justice and peace.

For me, "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" serves as an annual reminder that the days are hastening on. I can't afford to be complacent, thinking that whole Second Coming thing was just a figure of speech. E.H. Sears' verses underscore that even in this season of shopping, parties, and decorating, there is a bigger picture than my own commitments, a

larger responsibility I must undertake as a follower of Jesus. My life has an expiration date, and I need to be ready when it arrives.

Most of all, Pastor Sears reminds me—and all of us—that his song, a call to peace, still resounds in the world, and we can hear it, if only we will...

*...hush the noise, [we] men of strife
And hear the angels sing, —*

*I can't afford to be
complacent, thinking
that whole Second
Coming thing was just
a figure of speech.*



*Lord, you are generous
and kind to all your people.
Instill within me a
compassionate and generous
heart that I may respond to
my poor sisters and brothers
near and far away.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 13–18

- | |
|---|
| Monday, St. Lucy:
Nm 24:2–7, 15–17a / Mt 21:23–27 |
| Tuesday, St. John of the Cross:
Zep 3:1–2, 9–13 / Mt 21:28–32 |
| Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 45:6b–8, 18, 21c–25 / Lk 7:18b–23 |

Thursday, Advent Weekday:

Is 54:1–10 / Lk 7:24–30

Friday, Advent Weekday:

Gn 49:2, 8–10 / Mt 1:1–17

Saturday, Advent Weekday:

Jer 23:5–8 / Mt 1:18–25

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