



St. Joan of Arc

Christmas 2021



So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

Luke 2:16-20

Dear Friends in Christ,

In my own name and on behalf of our entire staff, I wish to extend to you and your family my prayers and best wishes for a most blessed, joyous, and safe Christmas.

To our visitors and guests, whether present in Church or watching online, welcome to St. Joan of Arc. I am delighted you are praying with us! Know we always have a place for you at our amazing parish.

As we find ourselves wading through yet another Christmas amid the COVID pandemic, church pews may not be as full, long-standing family traditions may remain on hold, and loved ones may still be separated. Yet, despite these challenges, the hope and promise of the Nativity – when God became flesh – is everlasting.

Over these past 18 months, we made it through the difficulty of limited access to Masses and funerals. We sprayed disinfectant on pews and used color-coded seating. We modified our music, lector, and eucharistic minister ministries and moved meetings, programs, and prayer groups to Zoom. We expanded our video ministry to host simultaneous in-person and live-streamed events and continue to learn how this ministry is reaching people near and far.

Sadly, we also shed and shared tears and prayers for beloved friends and family who passed this year.

Through it all, you – dear parishioners and friends of St. Joan of Arc Parish – remain patient, helpful, supportive, and kind. I extend my grateful appreciation for all you do for our parish and school. Allow me to humbly thank you for your countless offers and efforts. Because of you, our parish remains strong and vibrant, living by its anchors of being transformative and radically hospitable while boldly making disciples. I appreciate your support in words and prayers and the generous sharing of your many gifts and talents.

There is no doubt the Holy Spirit continues to move in profound and previously unknown ways at St. Joan of Arc – all in the midst of what were once unimaginable difficulties and challenges.

Yes, the Lord is born for us this day, and a light has shone upon us! We need to cherish this precious gift of God in every moment of every day. May we become beacons of light ourselves, illuminating the way for others to experience this wondrous gift of God, the Prince of Peace.

With best wishes and prayers for you and your family during this Christmas season and throughout the coming New Year, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Monsignor G. Michael Bugarin
Pastor



Now more than ever we need...



Join us for Mass

in the church and by live stream
at stjoan.church or
Facebook @sjascs

Daily at 7 am

Saturday Vigil Masses

4 pm and 6 pm

Sundays

8 am, 10 am and 12 noon

Weekly Confession

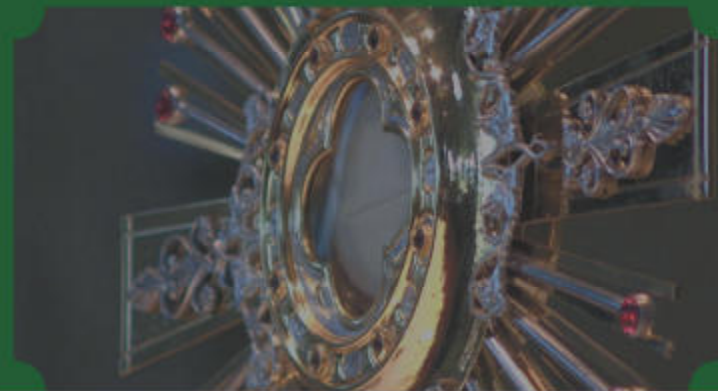
Saturdays at 11 am and
by appointment

Join us for Adoration

at 7 pm on Thursday nights for a

*Holy Hour with
Music*

The last Thursday of every
month is silent Adoration.



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 cup of coffee 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 sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose for more information about this group and study.



The
CHOSEN

SEASON TWO

WATCH PARTY AND DISCUSSION

**JOIN FR. ANDREW VIA ZOOM
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SECOND SEASON (8 EPISODES)
OF THE ACCLAIMED SERIES
ABOUT CHRIST'S LIFE**

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM, JAN 11 – MAR 1

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Steps along our journey with Christ

by Msgr. Mike Bugarin

Our parish and school theme for the year, *Journey Forward with Christ*, is about staying focused on where we are going – and that is to be with Him. Although we have faced and embraced some new changes in how we celebrate His love as a Parish family, we have not changed our core purpose: *to lead all souls to heaven*. The Holy Spirit has moved us in amazing and previously unknown ways of late as we work to grow and develop our ministries to serve our community.

The SJA video ministry is spreading the Good News in incredible ways. We livestream five masses each weekend, five-weekday masses each week, and numerous funerals, weddings, baptisms, and holy hours each week. It is not unusual for the livestream attendance at a weekend liturgy to number in the hundreds, even when the Church is full! One gift of this ministry is how it allows grieving family unable to attend a loved one's funeral the ability to watch the mass live. It's also made it possible for friends and family of wedding couples or new parents to safely take part in these special liturgies.

There are wonderful things happening too in Faith Formation. We have adopted a family formation model built around the Sunday liturgy, bringing young children learning the faith, with their families, to the table of the Lord with the entire faith community. The response to this program has been enthusiastic, and the witness to the faith in this more visible context encourages both the children and the Parish community!

Our Adult Faith Formation continues to take advantage of both our livestream capability and the great educational programs available to us. Last year we had a very successful and well-attended program on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. We just concluded a 5-week program on the mass, following the materials by Dr. Edward Sri. In 2022 we have already arranged for an adult formation program on the Shroud of Turin that you will not want to miss.

Our music ministry continues to grow, and we have

made great efforts to choose both prayerful and reflective songs and hymns. Using the big screens in Church allows us to expand our music offerings, since we're no long tied to one hymnal. Our Thursday Holy Hours are another example of simple, prayerful, and inspirational music to allow for deeper reflection on the Savior's love for us.

One of our anchors at the parish is to be *Transformative*. Through daily Mass, Holy Hours, Reconciliation Services, Stations of the Cross, our SJA Prayer Warriors group on Facebook, small faith-based prayer groups, various Bible studies, and special events, we try to offer diversity and many ways to bring all souls to Christ!

We have also developed some new and wonderful ministries. We celebrate about 150 funeral liturgies a year. Funerals bring worshippers to Church in often sad or painful situations. Funerals bring people to Church who may have slipped away years ago. These people need to be welcomed in, comforted, and helped with simple things like directions, tissues, a touch on the hand, a kind word. Our Funeral Ministry offers just that, a warm and sympathetic welcome in a time of need. Our Funeral Luncheon Ministry also provides support and fellowship to families and can help them start to heal.

With our God's Doorkeepers ministry we live our anchor of *radical hospitality* by greeting those at the door with kindness so they feel welcome as they "come home" to St. Joan – as if it were Christ coming through the door. Just as Blessed Solanus did, we carry out simple acts to spread the Gospel message of love.

Our final anchor is to go forward *boldly making disciples* by courageously living, teaching, and sharing the message of Christ. This is our Journey. Please join us in whatever ministry or capacity to which God is calling you. In gratitude to God for all that we have and for all that we accomplish together, let us continue our *Journey Forward with Christ*.

Weddings and preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Joan of Arc



“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails ...”

1 Corinthians 4-8

By teaching that marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament, the church is saying that the couple's relationship expresses in a unique way the unbreakable bond of love between Christ and his people. Like the other six sacraments, marriage is a sign or symbol that reveals the Lord Jesus and through which his divine life and love are communicated. The sacraments were instituted by Christ and were entrusted to the Church to be celebrated in faith within and for the community of believers. The rituals and prayers by which a sacrament is celebrated serve to express visibly what God is doing invisibly. For this sacrament, the

Church requires that a couple make their unions public, so to speak. They stand before their faith community (a priest and at least two witnesses) and publicly exchange their vows. The church says that the significance of what a couple is doing is a public matter – becoming a newly formed family with responsibilities and privileges the civil and the religious community. Civil society recognizes the new social unit of a family, and the Church recognizes a new social unit within the parish and a new public witness to Jesus' love for his Church (cf. CCC 1656).

Engaged and planning your wedding?

Congratulations and the prayers of our community are with you! Our website has a page dedicated to the steps needed to prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and to secure your wedding date at St. Joan of Arc. Visit sjascs.org/weddings

Pause, reflect, and reconnect with Marriage Encounter

The experience allows you to create a dialogue with each other and with God, to create a higher and broader understanding of what it means to be married. While faith is a powerful part of this process, the focus of the Marriage Encounter experience is on the ups and downs of married life. Married couples of any denomination, mixed-faith, or without religious affiliation are welcome! Faithful to the Roman Catholic Church's definition that marriage is a covenant that exists between one man and one woman, any reference to "marriage" or "couple" made by Worldwide Marriage Encounter is in this context. Learn more at wwme.org.



Get a troubled marriage back on track

Retrouvaille helps couples heal and renew their hurting marriages. The Retrouvaille Program is

- for married couples facing difficult challenges in their relationship
- a marriage program that helps couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship
- a Christian marriage program, Catholic in origin, where couples of all faiths or no faith background are encouraged to attend
- a practical program to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect

Presenters are not trained marriage counselors, but rather couples sharing their personal stories of marital struggles and the tools they used to rediscover their love. Check out the schedule for 2022 at helpourmarriage.com or call 800-470-2230.



Learn about becoming Catholic



Each year at the Easter Vigil mass, parishes welcome new members into the Catholic Church through a process of education, faith sharing, and rituals known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The process is designed for those adults and children over the age of seven who are:

- not baptized
- baptized in another tradition
- baptized Catholic, but with no further religious training or reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation

For further information please feel free to contact the Faith Formation Office at 586.772-1282 or email rep@sjascs.org

Blessed be God!



Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Learn about baptism at SJA at sjascs.org/baptism.

SJA School: encountering God through prayer, worship, study and service



Third-grade students were wrapped up in their books creating these book-inspired T-shirts to report to classmates the great stories they'd read. Definitely a picture worth a 1,000 words!



Msgr. Mike says a prayer of blessing over boxes our 6th-grade students prepared for distribution to children around the world for the Operation Christmas service project



Left, praying at the start of the day. Center, reading to classmates, and right, praying round and "lighting" the candles of the advent wreath.



Left, students observe in the science lab. Right, teacher Mrs. Lazar answers a student's question about the big advent wreath in church.

GALA NEWS

We moved our 2021 gala from spring to fall hosting an Octoberfest at Lochmoor Club. It was our most successful ever, thanks the generosity of school and parish families and the many gracious donations of local business.

Save the date for October 15, 2022 and dust off that mint green tuxedo and cummerbund as we celebrate Homecoming St. Joan of Arc style.



A foundation of faith and excellence.

St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

stjoan.net

Call for a tour: 586-775-8370

The school year joyfully journeys forward inspired and centered on Christ

In August, we joyfully greeted our St. Joan school students for another amazing year of in-person learning. We also welcomed a few new educators to our excellent teaching staff, while some familiar faces assumed new roles.

Amy Pattie, our long-time junior high math teacher, became Principal at St. Joan, and Charlie Kaiser, experienced sixth-grade and physical education teacher, accepted the job to be our new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. Left with big shoes to fill with the retirements of our dearly loved former principal, Kathy Kalich, and assistant principal, Mary Pat Brennan, Mrs. Pattie and Mr. Kaiser hit the ground running and are off to a great start.

Joining our staff of wonderful teachers this year is Ms. Anna Calderone who brings to the fifth-grade classroom enthusiasm as well as her own memories of being an SJA Charger. New to our eighth-grade team is Ms. Melanie Kolar who complements our school staff with her many years of middle-school math expertise.

Our teachers and students will benefit from new technology in the classroom, courtesy of the American Rescue Plan's Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools program. New MacBooks for teachers and staff are on their way along with new desktop models to outfit the computer lab.

Even amid the challenges of COVID, one thing that remains a constant at St. Joan of Arc School is a commitment to providing excellence in Catholic education rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to lead students in knowing God and the Gospel through prayer, worship, study, and service.



Kindergarten students enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour of the school office with Principal Amy Pattie.



Assistant Principal Charlie Kaiser instructs fifth graders in properly handling and folding the American Flag.

The theme for the school year - *Our Journey Forward with Christ* - inspires our school community to keep our Lord at the center of all they do.

God placed himself in a loving family

Today, the first Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God chose to come among us, not as a lone ranger, but instead placing Himself within the nurturing and loving context of a human family. By so doing, God signaled to mankind that of all human communities, the family is to be regarded with the highest dignity and that public authority has an obligation to recognize and protect it. The family is the foundation of a well-formed society because it is the natural environment of the well-formed child, who participates in and perpetuates that society as they grow into an adult. When the institution of the family is torn down, the fabric of society begins to come unstitched and falls apart at the seams. Between 1960 and 2016, the percentage of children living in families with two parents fell from 88 to 69.

Growing-up in England, with two siblings, I always considered my immediate family of five a “big” family. Most of my friends seemed to have just one sibling.

Someone in my family always seemed to be eating something different to everyone else. My mom would always say, “I can’t buy for five. It has to be either four or six people. Nothing is packaged for 5!” My parents both have just one sibling each. I have two aunts. Each of those aunts had just two children. So, I have just four cousins. My dad’s parents had both passed away by the time he was 12 or 13 years old, so I only knew one set of grandparents. When I added up my entire extended family members a few years ago, the number totaled only about 20. Now cousins and siblings have children, so extending- out, there are a handful more ... about 25 in all! Still, I recognize that I was very blessed to be raised in a traditional family. I recall at the age of 11 one of my classmates coming to school with a new last name after his mother had remarried. I remember finding this so odd.

But as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we take the opportunity also to recognize the many families and extended families, who often, despite very difficult circumstances, pour themselves into creating a cohesive family that might not exactly model the Holy Family.

There are so many loving parents who, regardless of separation from a spouse or divorce, have maintained wonderful and nurturing family environments in which to raise their children; balancing work responsibilities with being present to their children. We honor you for your dedication. There are many grandparents and extended families who step-in to help raise children, after a family tragedy or when one spouse or the other is called away for an extended period, such as military service.

None of these circumstances are easy. We give thanks for the stability and strength and love you provide for your children. They are God’s precious gift and whatever circumstances may have formed the family, it honors God by its nurturing of the child.

May the Holy Family be a model for our families, so that parents and children may support each other mutually in adherence to the Gospel, the basis of the holiness of the family.

- Pope Francis



Of the Holy Family, St. Therese of Lisieux once said: *“What does me a lot of good when I think of the Holy Family is to imagine a life that was very ordinary. It wasn’t everything that they have told us or imagined. For example, that the child Jesus, after having formed some birds out of clay, breathed upon them and gave them life. Ah! No! Little Jesus didn’t perform useless miracles like that, even to please His Mother.*”

Why weren't they transported into Egypt by a miracle which would have been necessary and so easy for God? In the twinkling of an eye, they could have been brought there. No, everything in their life was done just as in our own. How many troubles, disappointments! How many times did others make complaints to good St. Joseph! How many times did they refuse to pay him for his work! Oh! How astonished we would be if we only knew how much they had to suffer!"

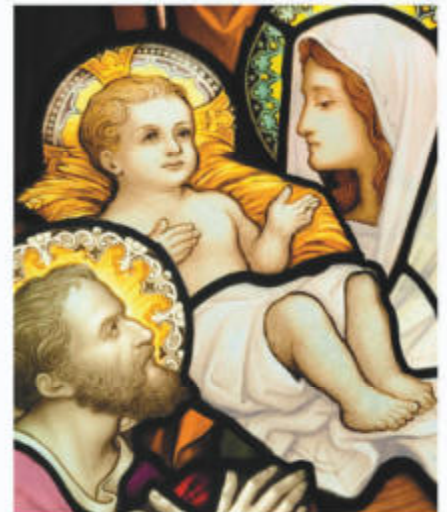
Whatever circumstances may have formed the family, it honors God by its nurturing of the child.

In the Holy Family, it is intended that we see a reflection of our God – a community based on a relationship of love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the Holy Family, too, we should see a reflection of our own families – a family that knew suffering and struggle. Being the “Holy Family” did not exclude them from suffering. There has been so much suffering for so many these almost two years. We remember particularly as we close out 2021, those members of our families and our community we have since handed over to the Lord before reaching this coming New Year. We hold them dear and they remain intimately connected to the heart of our families – those to whom we are thankful for the ways they helped to form us.

I first got a sense of how my family was not a “big family” when I joined the Catholic Church, which was here in Michigan back in 2006. By then I had begun to meet more Catholic families. Some of you may have recently seen a story in the Free Press about a family that has 14 boys and just had a baby girl. I know their extended family and that their mom’s brother also has 10 children, all boys! One of my priest friends is one of eight children. He claims to be a middle child, “the middle of eight,” and I frequently have to remind him that that’s not possible. Initially, his parents had been unable to conceive. They concluded that God may be calling them to be adoptive parents and so they went through the process and adopted a son. Maybe their discernment was correct on that occasion, but God wasn’t done with them yet. Maybe it was that act of faith

in God’s Providence for the nature of their family, but shortly after adopting, they became pregnant and had 7 more children of their own. In reality, have eight children meant sacrifices? I’m sure it has, but do they see it that way? I’m sure they don’t. Having spent much time with them, the love and affection for each other is obvious.

It’s fun to spend time with them – the house is always full and loud and busy. My friend tells me he eats fast because he and his siblings learned they had to! Or else someone else would eat it for them! The children are all out of the house now and several are married with children of their own. One is a priest, two are in the military. It’s just beautiful to see the unity of the family when they get together. They started on a solid base, a solid foundation, and it worked.



But the foundation was poured with faith. That’s the essential ingredient to building a family as God intended it to be. Scripture and sociology both point to the advantages and the intent of the family consisting of a husband, a wife and their children, but no matter the people or the number, the essential person is God. God needs to be the Father-figure around whom our families are built. He is the stable rock we can all return home to. Any family with God at the center will be a blessing to itself and to the community.

You are in my prayers this New Year!

Fr. Andrew Dawson
adawson@sjascs.org

Families – at the heart of Faith Formation

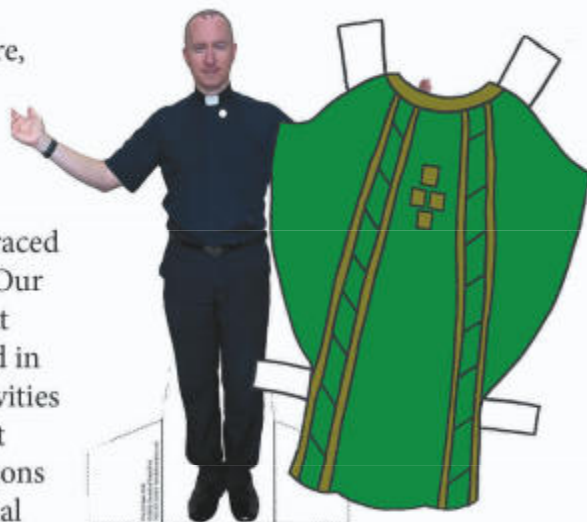


St. Joan of Arc embraced a big change this year by moving from the traditional after-school classroom model of catechisis for the children of our parish to one of family formation. We considered and prayed about this approach prior to the pandemic, and the ongoing experience of COVID-19 cemented the need for a family-centered approach. One guiding principle of the program is to restore to parents their right as first teachers of the faith to their children.

We're committed to supporting our parish families in building their own domestic churches in their homes. Families also directly engage in preparing their children as to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time.

One Sunday each month, families with children in kindergarten through grade six come together to attend mass, then head over to the school gym for a brief group presentation. Students travel to classrooms for a lesson with catechists, while parents stay in the gym for a talk that coordinates with what the students are learning. Topics so far have included an introduction to the Bible and praying with sacred scripture, the hope of heaven and how the Lord keeps his promises. The Sunday lesson then kicks off the theme for three at-home lessons, each with a teaching and some fun family activities.

It's been an adventure, and we are so grateful for the many families who have placed their trust in us and embraced this new approach. Our catechists report that students are engaged in their classroom activities in a way they haven't in that past. The lessons focus on foundational



teachings of the church – and everyone is on the same lesson.

This year also marks a transition for our parish students preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. We've moved into a two-year program to put the focus not just educating our students on the sacrament, but forming them into missionary disciples.

If you'd like information about our Family Formation and faith formation programs, please email rep@sjascs.org or call 586-772-1282



We love when families share their photos with us! These two young saints-in-training were breathing fire - inspired by the Old Testament



Families each received a treasure box (above) filled with items to help them with their at-home lessons. Some of the items included were a set of cards with prayers every Catholic should know, a liturgical calendar, a game "Who's Who in the Gospels," a prayer cloth, rosary, holy water, a cut out doll of Fr. Andrew (left) with vestments to color to help bring into their homes the seasons throughout the liturgical year.

Jesus: Image of the Invisible God program on the Shroud of Turin

This Lent, discover Jesus, the source of our salvation. Having been tested like us in every way, Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses and understands our sufferings. We will deepen our appreciation of the historic reality of Jesus' conquest of suffering and death through His Passion and Resurrection by focusing on the message left behind on the Shroud of Turin.

Tuesdays, March 8, 15 and 22

At St. Joan of Arc, in person and livestreamed, presented by David J. Conrad, M.A. Theology

March 8: The Message of the Shroud

Its History; Scientific Analysis; The Imprint it Makes on Our Lives

March 15: Praying with the Shroud

Sung meditation on the Passion of Our Lord employing the scripture passages that correspond to the wounds of the Man of the Shroud.

March 21: The Empty Tomb and the Shroud

Take a journey through time at the site of Jesus' death and resurrection, from the discovery of the empty tomb and the burial cloths lying within, to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which houses the locations of these historic events.



With over two decades in full-time parish ministry, Mr. Conrad has been serving as Pastoral Associate and Director of Faith Formation at St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia since 2003. At the same time, Mr. Conrad serves as a part-time instructor of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary (since 2009), and Coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue for the Archdiocese of Detroit (since 2017).

*Ash Wednesday
is March 2*
Join us for Stations
of the Cross each
Friday at 7 pm
during Lent

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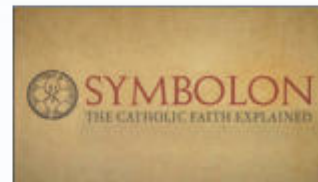
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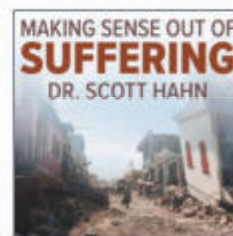
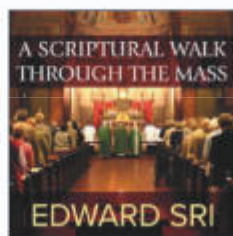
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Find St. Joan of Arc from the parish list.

Watch Award-Winning Programming



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Mass Intentions for Christmas 2021

Monday, December 27, 2021

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist, (White)
7:00 am - Jesse F. Champine and Theresa
Toenjes

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, (Red)
7:00 am - Hugo Calisi and Karen Jones

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the
Lord (White)
7:00 am - George J. Bugarin and Anthony
Lombardi

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the
Lord, (White)
7:00 am- Donnie Hunsucker

Friday, December 31, 2021 Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord (White)

7:00 am - Bernard J. Champine, George
Wietecha and Anna Maria Dolunt

Saturday, January 1, 2022

The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord,
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (White)
10:00 am - George J. Bugarin, Timothy Fox and a
Special Intention for Tracy & Jerry Rauch

Sunday, January 2, 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord (White)
8:00 am - For the Intentions of St. Joan of Arc
Parishioners
10:00 am- Danuta Siwik
12:00 pm - Salvatore Ciaravino, Gary A. Rossi and
the deceased members of the Walsh Family, and
Special Intentions for the J. Champine Family

Words on the Word

December 26, 2021 – Family First

Much has been written about the so-called “cancel culture,” in which people are encouraged to turn away from people, places or things that may have unwarranted power over them.

Setting aside the politics or merits of that movement, it’s worth noting today that some of the thought behind that dynamic now seems to be working its way into the family setting.

An opinion piece in the *Detroit Free Press* a few weeks ago, written by a psychoanalyst and author, noted that some adults are now starting to “cancel” parents that they perceive to be – or to have been in the past – abusive of their relative power.

The author is quick to caution her patients, and readers overall, against rushing to do so. “What I see in my practice are cases of family conflict mismanaged, power dynamics inverted rather than negotiated,” she writes. “I see scenarios with no winners, only isolated humans who long to be known and feel safe in the presence of the other.”

Sobering words, to be sure. Are there legitimate instances where parents are abusive in one way or another? Of course, but it’s also true, as we hear in today’s first reading from Sirach, that “God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother’s authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them.”

What all of us, imperfect as we are, should strive to create in our families is an environment of mutual respect.

Put on, as God’s chosen ones ... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another,” St. Paul writes in today’s second reading to the Colossians. “If one has a grievance against another, as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.”

© 2021, *Words on the Word*

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Non-Resident Associate

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

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and find us on Facebook and Instagram @sjascs

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Exceptional Children

rep@sjascs.org

Parish Center Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30 am-5 pm
Fri 8:30 am-4 pm
Closed Sat and Sun

Masses and Requests

Prayer requests can be made
online at
sjascs.org/prayer-request
or by calling the Parish Center
at 586-777-3670

Arrangements for masses for
the deceased and for special
intentions can be made in
person, online, by email at
info@sjascs.org or by calling at
586-777-3670.

Connect with us online at

sjascs.org and via Flocknote at
flocknote.com

Readings for the Week of December 26-January 1

Dec 27 Monday

Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist
1 John 1:1-4
John 20:1a, 2-8

Dec 28 Tuesday

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 John 11:5-2:2
Matthew 2:13-18

Dec 29 Wednesday

Fifth Day Within the Octave of
the Nativity of the Lord
1 John 2:3-11
Luke 2:22-35

Dec 30 Thursday

Sixth Day Within the Octave of
the Nativity of the Lord
1 John 2:18-21
Luke 2:36-40

Dec 31 Friday

Seventh Day Within the Octave
of the Nativity of the Lord
1 John 2:18-21
John 1:1-18

Jan 1 Saturday

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy
Mother of God
Numbers 6:22-27
Luke 2:16-21

Jan 2 Sunday

The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others - no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. In addition, the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at 844-324-3374 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or by email at aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

More information about the Archdiocese's efforts to address abuse may be found at protect.aod.org.

Celebrating the Epiphany



What is Chalking the Door?

It is a way to celebrate and mark the occasion of the Epiphany and God's blessing of our lives and home. The letters we write have two meanings. They represent the initials of the magi - Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar - who came to visit Jesus in his first home in the manger in Bethlehem. They also represent the first letters of the words in Latin phrase: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." The + represents the cross and the 20 at the beginning and 22 at the end or for the year. The inscription is a request for Christ to bless the home and stay with those who dwell in it throughout the entire year.

Keep the chalk in a safe place to use again next year!

CHALKING THE DOOR



What do you need?

Blessed Chalk and the following Epiphany prayers.

How do you mark your door?

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

20 + C + M + B + 22

While saying:

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

Then together the family offers the following prayer:

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

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

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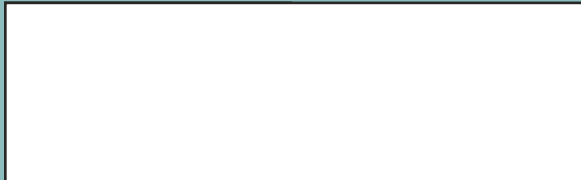
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