



# 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](http://www.sjascscs.org)  
 E-mail: [sjainfo@sjascscs.org](mailto:sjainfo@sjascscs.org)

**SCHOOL**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
 Phone: 586-775-8370  
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 E-mail: [info@stjoan.net](mailto:info@stjoan.net)

**FAITH AND FAMILY**  
**FORMATION OFFICE**  
**22415 Overlake**  
**Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080**  
 Phone: 586-772-1282  
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 E-mail: [repopffice@sjascscs.org](mailto:repopffice@sjascscs.org)

# Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

## ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

### Parish Center

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

### School

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

### Faith Formation

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

### Pastor

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin  
gmbugarin@sjascs.org

### Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone  
dciaffone@sjascs.org

### Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net

### Associate Pastor

Fr. Andrew Dawson  
adawson@sjascs.org

### Principal

Amy Pattie  
apattie@stjoan.net

### Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass  
khass@sjascs.org

### Non-Resident

Associate Pastor:  
Fr. Rich Bartoszek

### Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser  
ckaiser@stjoan.net

### Exceptional Children

TBD

### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz  
tstrasz@sjascs.org

### Music Director

Catherine Thomas  
cthomas@sjascs.org

### Youth Group

Linda Lietaert  
llietaert@stjoan.net

Deacon Dom Pastore  
dpastore@sjascs.org



## LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am

### Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

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

### Holy Day Masses

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

### Reconciliation

Saturdays 11:00am-12:00pm  
In the  
Sister Carol Center

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



## 'Twas the Night Before the Cookie Exchange:

Yes, 'Twas the Night Before the Christmas Cookie Exchange, when all through the house ...

Monsignor was looking forward to making (and eating) the cookies he had chosen for the Parish Center Christmas Cookie Exchange. You might be asking yourself why Monsignor was in the cookie exchange. Well, he knew this would be the only way he would get a large quantity and a variety of homemade cookies for his family Christmas party. Since the "12 Days of Christmas Cookies" wasn't an auction item at this year's school gala, he had to bribe some people to make cookies (which is always an option), or he could participate in the cookie exchange. So, he chose the cookie exchange option!

This was no ordinary cookie exchange because it was organized by the ultimate cookie baker herself, Mary Pat Brennan, and Kathy Kalich. So, the pressure was on! Then, to spare me of the ultimate nightmare of having one of my cookies turn out to be a disaster, I decided I would bake two different kinds of cookies. "This would be easy and a welcomed change to his schedule," I foolishly thought. But that was before I thoroughly read the recipes I had chosen. "After all, aren't all cookie recipes a few ingredients that you put together, and then drop by the spoonfuls onto cookie sheets and bake them?" NOT! And, of course, I didn't start this project until 9:30 PM the night before the exchange. Yes, 9:30 PM! While I had all the necessary ingredients for my two cookie versions, it wasn't until 9:30 PM that I finally read all the instructions ... AND. THEN. SCREAMED. One batch required the cookie dough to "chill" in the refrigerator for an hour and then be formed into balls that then had to be flattened with a glass dipped in sugar. The other cookie had to be formed into balls too. "You have to be kidding," I thought to myself. But there was no stopping now as it was late, and I had all the ingredients. I had no choice but to roll up my sleeves and get to work!

Thankfully, I was thinking that night because I started to work first on the cookie dough that needed to "chill" for an hour! I gathered all the ingredients and started to follow the recipe. For once in my life, I used real cream cheese and real butter. I had asked the night before at our Sunday family dinner if I should go my usual route

of low-fat cream cheese and margarine. Before I could even finish my sentence, the peanut gallery shouted out: "REAL butter and REAL cream cheese." I think they were having flashbacks to my infamous "healthy" Thanksgiving Day Dinner of many years ago. I heard the message loud and clear: I had to go with the real ingredients if I wanted good cookies!

My poor mixer struggled to mix everything after getting all the ingredients into my nice big bowl (it was a triple recipe). I actually started to smell my mixer burning a bit! So, I brought out a big plastic spoon to finish things up. That didn't go too well either, as the spoon split in two. "Maybe doing a triple version was too much," I thought. When the spoon broke, I pulled out some foodservice gloves I had sitting around and put them on to finish the mixing by hand. That didn't go too well either as some of the plastic glove broke off, and I found myself making sure none of the plastic was left in the dough. As you can read, things weren't going too well, but it didn't matter because I had to keep moving. Once the first cookie got done, I placed the huge bowl in the refrigerator to "chill" a bit! At this point, I wanted to chill too! I then moved to cookie number two. This one was easier to mix, and I got through it without any disasters. I then started to form 1 oz balls of dough. I began to use a plastic measuring spoon, but that too broke. So, I pulled out my food scale and started to measure 1 oz portions of dough. I formed all the dough balls and then flattened them as noted in the recipe. I dutifully baked my first batch but wasn't happy with the results. They were Andes Mint Cookies that tasted like Andes Mints squished into some dry flour clumps. I wasn't impressed at all. I was hoping they would have tasted like the cookie of the year! Once bland cookie number two was done, it was time to bake cookie number one, which was M&M Cream Cheese Cookies. This version was very tedious to finish, too, because the dough was chilled, and it had to be formed into dough balls and then flattened with a glass dipped in sugar! I eventually baked them all and wasn't too impressed with the results again. They tasted like M&M's squished into clumps of flour! Do you see a pattern here? But it was now pushing 1:30 AM, and I just wanted to get this project done. I bagged all of my cookies according to the rules and regulations of the Cookie Exchange, and off to bed I went.

Oh, the lessons learned on this one. First, READ the instructions before embarking on a cooking journey. Second, use real ingredients. Third, don't use plastic or

wooden utensils. Fourth, don't use cheap foodservice gloves because they're made to serve and not mix. Fifth, don't start at 9:30 PM. Sixth, stick to one recipe. Seventh, and most importantly, a novice is better off bribing a sister or a niece to do the cookies for you next time! One day I'll learn! But the good thing is that despite my cookies turning out to be somewhat of a flop, I still benefited from the other cookies from my fellow cookie exchangers that would grace my family's Christmas Eve dinner table. That's all I needed and wanted! So, mission accomplished!

**Thank You:** There are many people to thank for their efforts going back to the late summer and fall for all of their work on our parish and school grounds. Our grounds and Christmas decorations look absolutely incredible because of these remarkable people who gave some much time and their talent to making our parish look absolutely awesome! Please join me in thanking:

**Parish Grounds:** The Dirt Angels -- Debbie Bigham and Thelma Socia, Charles Socia, The Hass Family, and Giles and Jackie Wilborn. **The School Grounds Crew:** Danny Storrs, Kate Tanner, Anna Artley, Kate Artley, Andre Maes, Blake Moseley, Daniella Pietrowski, Andrew Larimer, Adrianna Spindler, Brian & Yvette Wicker, Mrs. Storrs, Mr. Pietrowski, The Zalewski Family, The Benoit Family, The Pattie Family, Joanna Eisbrenner, Vern Dave, Greg Ruvolo, Our Partners at Zeppelin Services, Lonnie Scheuer and our Partners at Green Valley Outdoor Services. **Christmas Set Up Crew:** Pat and Sandy Markielewicz & Family, Father Rich, Father Andrew, Patty Kesner, Maria Krzesowski, Kristine Hass, Mary Garofalo, Debbie Bigham, Thelma Socia, Laura Sorget, Mary Pat Brennan, Kathy Kalich, Barb Hendrick, Ann Meliese, Ilona Higgins, Charles Kaiser, Rachel Gerard, Vern Dave, Greg Ruvolo, Pete Ciaravino, Dina Ciaffone and Jackie Scheuer. **Outdoor Christmas Lights Crew:** Ed Allemon and Charles Colzza.

I also wish to thank Catherine Thomas and all of our music ministers for all of the awesome music at our Christmas liturgies. It was another extraordinarily beautiful Christmas at SJA and one that we needed because it lifted our hearts and minds amid our ongoing COVID experience! THANK YOU!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers. Happy New Year.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org

# FORMED®

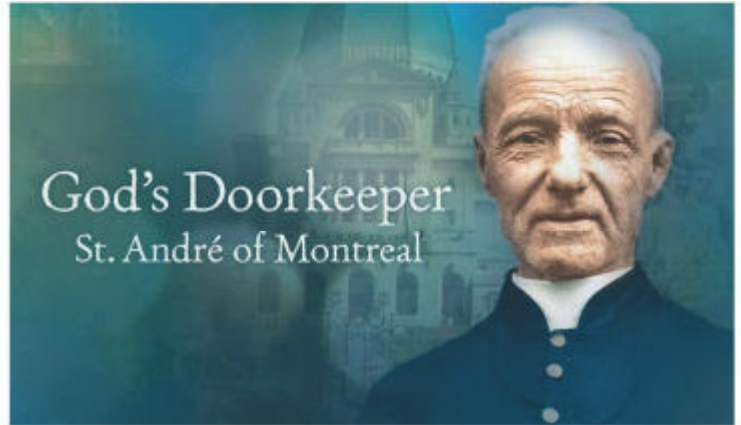
PICK OF THE WEEK

January 2, 2022

WATCH

## GOD'S DOORKEEPER: ST. ANDRÉ OF MONTREAL

This week, we celebrate the memorial of a humble doorkeeper, St. André of Montreal. Learn how this man became a great saint through his small acts of love!



## FORMED NOW! HOW TO PRAY

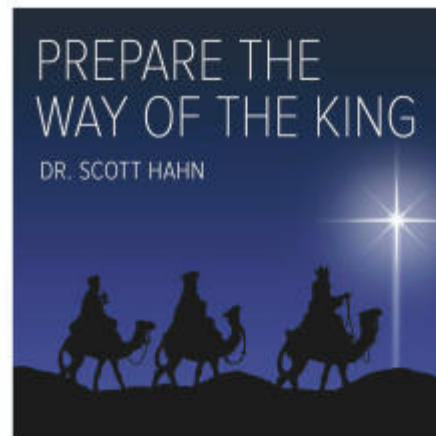
Whether you are a veteran in the spiritual life or are just beginning, start this year off right by recommitting yourself to prayer! Join Drs. Tim Gray and Elizabeth Klein as they discuss ways to kickstart your prayer life this year!

LEARN

LISTEN

## PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

As we celebrate the Epiphany, Dr. Scott Hahn explains how we should understand the three Magi and their gifts to the Lord!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

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



**St. Joan of Arc**  
Online Giving

Manage your Online Giving account with the app!

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

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

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

Available on the Google play and Download on the App Store

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!



Are you ready to help  
in the fight against RSV?



We're preparing for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season, and we're looking for people who can help us advance an investigational vaccine for RSV.

RSV is a leading cause of respiratory illness in older adults that can lead to hospitalization. No specific prevention or treatment options currently exist. You may be eligible for the Renoir study if you are 60 years of age or older and generally healthy or have stable chronic conditions. If you qualify and choose to take part, you will be in the study for three RSV seasons (about three years).

By participating in the Renoir study, you could be a part of vaccine progress for older adults.

Ready to learn more?

Contact the study team:

Phone: **313-343-6311** or Email:  
IDResearchStJohn@Ascension.org



**Ascension**  
**St. John Hospital**

Ascension St. John Hospital  
Vaccine Research Unit  
19251 Mack Avenue, Suite 380  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Or visit [www.StudyRSV.com](http://www.StudyRSV.com)  
for more information.



Renoir



**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can



get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of

mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

*"And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

- Mt 2:6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

## Weekly Calendar of Events

### Monday, January 3rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

### Tuesday, January 4th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

### Wednesday, January 4th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

### Thursday, January 5th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour - Live Streamed

### Friday, January 6th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral for Christopher Sellers

### Saturday, January 7th

10:00 am Funeral Mass for Arthur J. Vaughn

11:00 am Reconciliation

12:30 pm Baptism of Jack H. Smith

1:30 pm Baptism of Kennedy J. Hintzsche

4:00 pm Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - Live Streamed

### Sunday, January 8th

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

### *January 2, 2022 – Gifts of the Heart*

Christmas day is past, but it might be instructive, for a moment, to think about a Christmas present.

In the flurry of activity that leads up to the big day, many people scramble about to complete their Christmas shopping. In the not-too-distant past, that meant being in pre-dawn lines on Black Friday, or rushing around to numerous malls and department stores looking for just the right item, in just the right size and color.

Or it meant scouring the newspaper circulars looking for needed items at the lowest possible prices.

In more recent years, it's meant spending more time shopping online, seeking the best bargains or delivery deals.

In the waning days of the shopping season just completed, one local publication ran a story that featured a list of numerous gift-giving ideas essentially guaranteed to arrive in time to be given for Christmas.

Whether the gift was for him or for her, for a child or a hard-to-please relative, it's likely many readers – noticing shortages borne of supply chain issues of various kinds – took the bait and ran with the ideas.

And, again, while the buying spree portion of the season is done, maybe the larger takeaway for us is keeping in mind the purpose of gift-giving in the first place.

“(The magi) were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother,” we hear in today’s gospel passage from St. Matthew. “They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

In other words, they opened not just their treasures, but their hearts, as well, to the Christ child.

It's an act of charity from which we all can learn a lesson.

### 2021 Words on the Word



# Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

## Mass Intentions

- Monday January 3, 2022 Christmas Weekday (White)**  
7:00 a.m. Sam & Grace Valenti and Patricia Rudoni
- Tuesday January 4, 2022 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (White)**  
7:00 a.m. Virgil Medley and the deceased members of the Bogos & Najor Families
- Wednesday January 5, 2022 Saint John Neumann, Bishop (White)**  
7:00 a.m. John Gaines and Mark Brys
- Thursday January 6, 2022 Christmas Weekday, Saint Andre Bessette, Religious (White)**  
7:00 a.m. Nicholas Garvin
- Friday January 7, 2022 Christmas Weekday, Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest (White)**  
7:00 a.m. George J. Bugarin and Ann Terlescki
- Saturday January 8, 2022 Christmas Weekday (White)**  
4:00 p.m. Jerome Rogier, Brian Truff, Beatrice Ducastel, the deceased members of the Goor Family, Dominique Liger, Eric Goachet, Hans & Elizabeth Stahl, David DePerro, Bob Fannon and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc  
6:00 p.m. A Special Intention for Julie Shellenbarger
- Sunday January 9, 2022 Baptism of the Lord (White)**  
8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners  
10:00 a.m. George Petroff Jr.  
12:00 p.m. Betty Jean Scrivo, Anna Maria Dolunt, Paul Michael Shovlin, Judy Kniffin, Robert Lucas, Michael Berch

## Daily Readings

- Monday, January 3**  
1 John 3:22-4:6  
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
- Friday, January 7**  
1 John 5:5-13  
Luke 5:12-16
- Tuesday, January 4**  
1 John 4:7-10  
Mark 6:34-44
- Saturday, January 8**  
1 John 5:14-21  
John 3:22-30
- Wednesday, January 5**  
1 John 4:11-18  
Mark 6:45-52
- Sunday, January 9**  
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
- Thursday, January 6**  
1 John 4:19-5:4  
Luke 4:14-22a



### I Am The Resurrection & The Life

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

Sharon Strus  
Daniel Voss  
Lee Fallieres  
Earnest Romanelli  
Fr. Robert J. Slaton



“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](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org) calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto: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



### New Year:

As we approached the last couple of days of 2021, I heard again of one of the saddest

traditions I can recall hearing. Apparently, New York City celebrates “Good Riddance Day.” People are invited to write down all the things from the past year to which they’d like to say “good riddance,” and they are shredded and added to the Times Square confetti, as those people look forward to better times next year. And in 12 months, I’m sure they will be saying the same things again.

It strikes me as a terrible way to miss just how blessed we are and how God, even in the midst of difficulties, tragedies and challenges, never ignores us, never stops blessing us.

Tragedies sometimes occur, but we always have something to be thankful for. Sometimes, though we get blinded to what is good and allow ourselves to be fixated on the negative. If our hope is in some utopian experience in this present world, I’ll confidently say it won’t be this year, or next. And it’s not likely to be the one after that either. We will only find happiness and make sense of the events of the coming year if our hope is not in the ideal of a year without trouble, but in the Lord. Jesus never promised us a life without struggle; He promised the Christian *would face struggle*.

What if we were to enter this New Year with a thankful disposition instead of a negative one? What if we could take off the blinders that stop us seeing either side of whatever is troubling us now? Could we ever dare to remember

that God has blessed us so much already and plans on continuing to do so? Do we ever consider that each one of us was a deliberate thought of God, who willed us into existence in the first place and maintains our life to the extent that if He no longer intended us to be here on earth, He would have simply removed His Will.

We are so blessed, in so many ways that we so probably come to expect—as though they are ours by right. I often comment in confession to the penitent that they are wearing shoes. So far I have never seen anyone come into the confessional without shoes. And yet around 1 billion people in the world own either no shoes whatsoever or inadequate footwear to protect their feet from infection. But when was the last time any of us thanked God for our shoes? It’s just an example of the smallest of things that we can so easily overlook while we are busy being distracted by all the bad things we encounter and hear about in our world.

This world, and our community, would be a much kinder place if we were all working to develop a culture of gratitude. Sin comes from the focus on ourselves; gratitude pulls out of us a focus on others.

I have been pondering a phrase I heard recently, “Life is local.” The point is that there is so much going on in our world and in the news that can cause us to be distracted, angered, anxious, frustrated, upset. And while the events that happen out there, whether it be in our own country, elsewhere in the world can affect us in the long-term and we should be aware of them, if you ask most people what’s really important to them, most people will likely see through all those things and would tell you that it’s their

family, and their health, having a roof over their head and food on the table to eat. And if those are the things we care out, let’s not miss seeing them and expressing gratitude for them. Focusing on “the local” in our lives can be a way to keep out the anxiety caused by all that is not the way we would hope in this world. If we begin this year with the expectation that this finally will be the perfect year, we’re probably setting ourselves up for disappointment. But if we begin the year making it a goal to recognize just how generous God is to us, it could bring great peace to our hearts. 2022 is likely not be a utopian year, but will assuredly bring with it many blessings, challenges and opportunities to be a blessing to others and to come to know the Lord in a deeper way.

Along the way, we’d all do well to take a leaf from the writings of the 14th Century mystic, St. Julian of Norwich. Considering the mystery of God’s love for us, Julian asked: *“Ah, good Lord, how could all things be well, because of the great harm which has come through sin to your creatures?”*

Of the response she heard from God, she wrote: *“And so our good Lord answered all the questions and doubts which I could raise, saying most comfortingly: ‘I make all things well, and I can make all things well, and I shall make all things well, and I will make all things well; and you will see for yourself that every kind of thing will be well.’ ... And in these words, God wishes us to be enclosed in rest and peace.”*

Happy New Year!

You are in my prayers this week.

Fr. Andrew [adawson@sjasc.org](mailto:adawson@sjasc.org)

All women are invited  
to join us for our next

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

beginning

**January 11**

Two Sessions available - at 10 am and 7 pm

Join us in the Sr. Carol Center for a cup of coffee and to learn about the fruits of these beautiful weekly Catholic Bible Studies 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!

The morning group is revisiting the first study in the series - *Opening Your Heart*, and the evening group is starting with *Keeping in Balance*.

Visit [sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose](https://sjascs.org/walking-with-purpose) for more information about these groups and studies.



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 9

### Reading One – Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

### Responsorial Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30

**R. O bless the Lord, my soul.**

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak. You have spread out the heavens like a tent-cloth.

**R. O bless the Lord, my soul.**

You have constructed your palace upon the waters. You make the clouds your chariot; you travel on the wings of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, and flaming fire your ministers.

**R. O bless the Lord, my soul.**

How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have wrought them all the earth is full of your creatures; the sea also, great and wide, in which are schools without number of living things both small and great.

**R. O bless the Lord, my soul.**

They look to you to give them food in due time. When you give it to them, they gather it; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**R. O bless the Lord, my soul.**

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to the dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

**R O bless the Lord, my soul.**

### Reading Two – Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

### Alleluia - Lk 3:16

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

John said: One mightier than I is coming; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel – Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

January 2, 2022

## The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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

My husband is a bird watcher by day and a stargazer by night. I confess it drives me a little bonkers on our evening dog walks. I tend to want to keep moving; between him and our dog (who seems to want to sniff every mailbox), it's the pedestrian equivalent of stop-and-go traffic. Hearing about the journey of the Magi, however, reminds me to pause and look, too. Just as they saw the star rising and followed it to Jesus, we, too, can seek God in our surroundings, our relationships, and the beauty of creation – the next step is to follow where God leads us. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, the Magi represent "the journeying of humanity toward Christ." (*Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*) We may falter from the path from time to time, but Isaiah's prophesy reminds us of our destination: "You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow."

**GO EVANGELIZE**

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The Epiphany is early this year, falling right on the heels of New Year's Day. If we haven't made our New Year's resolutions yet, now is a good time to do so. In addition to typical resolutions such as reducing clutter or getting fit, we can set some spiritual goals as well. The definition of epiphany (lower case) is "a moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way." As we reflect on today's readings, let us ask the Holy Spirit to provide us an epiphany – into how we can grow closer to Jesus during this year ahead. Just as their encounter with the infant Jesus caused the Magi to be transformed from outsiders to faithful believers, and to take a different route home, our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist is meant to transform all of us, and set us on a new path to light and life.

**RESOLVE** New Year's resolutions are great! Why not add a couple of spiritual resolutions to the list – perhaps to pray the rosary more often, spend time in eucharistic adoration, or go on that retreat you have been meaning to attend. Ask the Holy Spirit for inspiration and see where it leads.



Epiphany, 1510, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Catholic Collection, Musée de la Ville de Paris

# Dear Padre,

## How is Twelfth Night related to Christmas?

**T**welfth Night is another name for the Epiphany, which traditionally occurred on January 6, the twelfth day after Christmas. Since the 1980s, United States Catholics have celebrated the Epiphany on the first Sunday after January 1, which is why we're celebrating it today instead of Thursday.

Liturgical celebrations are distinguished as solemnities, feasts, and memorials according to their importance. The two greatest solemnities, Easter and Christmas, continue for an octave (eight days). Since the octave of Christmas runs from December 25 through January 1 (the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God), it's not affected by the transfer of the Epiphany celebration.

Christmas is the great gift-giving day in the United States. In other cultures—for example, the Latino community—the anticipation and excitement of gift-giving is saved for Epiphany, the day the Magi brought their gifts to Jesus.

We often complain about how frenzied Christmas is—how much shopping, wrapping, and baking there is to do. But Christmas should be a time of worship and acknowledging the gift God gave us by sending his Son.

Epiphany, on the other hand, is made for celebration, gift-giving, going all out. Perhaps someday we can return to the traditions of Epiphany and restore Christmas as a day of rejoicing and worship.



A woman holds a figurine of the Christ Child during Mass on the feast of the Epiphany.

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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*[The Lord] is our light: a light that does not dazzle but accompanies and bestows a unique joy. This light is for everyone, and it calls each one of us....At the beginning of each day we can welcome this invitation: arise, shine, and follow today—among the many shooting stars in the world—the bright star of Jesus!*

ANGELUS ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

## Calendar

### Monday

JANUARY 3  
 Christmas Weekday  
 1 Jn 3:22—4:6  
 Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

### Tuesday

JANUARY 4  
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,  
 Religious  
 1 Jn 4:7–10  
 Mk 6:34–44

### Wednesday

JANUARY 5  
 St. John Neumann,  
 Bishop  
 1 Jn 4:11–18  
 Mk 6:45–52

### Thursday

JANUARY 6  
 Christmas Weekday  
 1 Jn 4:19—5:4  
 Lk 4:14–22a

### Friday

JANUARY 7  
 Christmas Weekday  
 1 Jn 5:5–13  
 Lk 5:12–16

### Saturday

JANUARY 8  
 Christmas Weekday  
 1 Jn 5:14–21  
 Jn 3:22–30

### Sunday

JANUARY 9  
 The Baptism of the Lord  
 Is 42:1–4, 6–7  
 or Is 40:1–5, 9–11  
 Acts 10:34–38  
 or Ti 2:11–14; 3:4–7  
 Lk 3:15–16, 21–22



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# Prayers Needed

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

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

## PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Jacob Milatz  
R. Connor Montgomery  
Martin Rodriguez  
Dave Russell

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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

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# Bringing Home the Word

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)  
January 2, 2022

## Herod Was Correct

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

King Herod, the most powerful man in the region, was greatly troubled to hear about the birth of a king. Why would a reigning king fear a little child? Perhaps because he believed if word spread that a future messiah had been born, the Jews would be harder to control. They were easier to dominate when they were without hope, without a leader.

Herod was correct. Wise men from the East looking for the King of the Jews fulfilled prophecies that foretold all nations would come to Israel looking for a messianic leader.

Herod was also troubled because, if indeed this newborn was a king, he had a pretender and a competitor right under his royal nose. King Herod was correct again.

Although Jesus did not pretend to overthrow the Romans, he did come with authority and would upend the existing order. Jesus would preach to the heart and demand that no one sit on that throne except God his Father.

The painter, Pseudo-Domenico di Michelino, in *Adoration of the Kings*, presents the arrival of the Magi as a procession of vassals showing homage to their king. Kneeling, bowing, and standing erect with gifts in hand, authorities from far away are reverencing the newborn royalty who sits on Mother Mary's lap. His royal hall is the hillside, his scepter a baby finger, his royal family is Joseph and Mary.

These Gentile kings were the first to do what all of creation and all of history have been doing since then—bending their knee to the King of the Universe. Herod was right to worry. —

***Jesus would preach to the heart and demand that no one sit on that throne except God his Father.***

### A Word from Pope Francis

[The Lord] is our light: a light that does not dazzle but accompanies and bestows a unique joy. This light is for everyone, and it calls each one of us... At the beginning of each day we can welcome this invitation: arise, shine, and follow today—among the many shooting stars in the world—the bright star of Jesus!

Angelus on Epiphany Sunday,  
January 5, 2017



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Does Jesus' authority and care give me security?
- Do I seek earthly securities aside from what treasures he offers me: his will, protection, and grace?

## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 60:1–6

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

### Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

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

### Matthew 2:1–12

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.



# The Richness of God's Vision

By Kathleen M. Basi

As a child, my sisters and I used to pray this prayer every night: "I love you, Jesus. Infant Jesus, meek and mild: make me a good, obedient child."

The word *obedience* rubs most modern audiences the wrong way. We tend to associate it with a lack of critical thinking—with the creation of blind, unquestioning automatons. If we don't understand why we believe what we believe, our faith has no foundation. We risk being derailed by the slightest challenge.

It's true that an unquestioned faith is an immature faith. On the other hand, not everything can be understood. What are the words "thy will be done" if not an acknowledgment that forces are at work beyond our comprehension? "Thy will be done" is our assent—our prayer of obedience. By living through the things we don't understand, we often gain wisdom and insight illuminating what once seemed incomprehensible.

I think about myself during the first few years of my marriage. We had followed the rules and never questioned the Church's teachings on sexuality. We were doing everything "right," and yet we could not conceive. Yes, there were medical issues, but they weren't severe enough to explain why God "allowed" the frustration of the desire he had placed within us to continue. Obedience left a bad taste in our mouths.

We spent several thousand dollars to adopt, only to be further delayed by



international politics. We prayed, we grieved, we wrestled with the words "thy will be done." Only when we reached the top of the waiting list did we conceive at last.

It didn't make sense. Why would God put us through so much if he intended all along to give us biological children?

When our second child was born, finally, everything fell into place. She has Down syndrome. And the reality is that no matter what we said in public, neither of us were truly open to parenting a child with a disability. But we had spent seven years learning to accept God's will for us. We had continued to be faithful and, yes, obedient, even when it didn't make sense. All that suffering prepared

us to accept and even embrace a different future than we had envisioned for our family. That vision, it turns out, is richer than ours ever was. We understand God and Christian discipleship in a way we never would have otherwise.

Obedience shouldn't be blind. We can and should wrestle with difficult questions, just as Jacob wrestled with the angel. Still, not everything has to make sense. Our job is to follow, even though we can't always see where we're going... yet. |

*By living through the things  
we don't understand,  
we often gain wisdom  
and insight.*



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

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 3–8

**Monday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 3:22 / 4:6 / Mt 4:12, 17, 23 / 25

**Tuesday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:**  
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44

**Wednesday, St. John Neumann:**  
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

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

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

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

Bringing Home  
the Word   
January 2, 2022

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